

## Egypt says no to Israeli chicken

CAIRO (R) — Egypt has banned imports of fresh and frozen chicken from Israel out of fear that the poultry is carrying the Newcastle virus, a statement published in the government Al-Ahram newspaper said Wednesday. It said Trade and Supply Minister Ahmad Juaily told authorities to take preventive measures to prevent the entry into Egypt of Israeli chicken. The Egyptian trade office in Brussels was informed by the European Union that Israeli chicken was found with the Newcastle virus, the newspaper said. There was no further information on chicken imports from other countries. Since the beginning of this year, Britain, for example, has had at least 11 cases of Newcastle disease, an acute viral disease of poultry.

# Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation  
جوردان تايمز يومية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية "الوأي"

## Clinton invites Israeli president to Washington

TEL AVIV (AFP) — U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright Wednesday invited Israel's dovish President, Ezer Weizman, to visit Washington next month. During a speech at the outset of her visit to try to rescue the Mideast peace process, Ms. Albright turned to Mr. Weizman and transmitted the invitation from U.S. President Bill Clinton. She said the visit would take place in early October. Mr. Weizman, whose position has traditionally been largely ceremonial, has angered the right-wing government of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu with a series of diplomatic initiatives over the past year to save the peace process. He notably met with Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat and speaks regularly with Israel's two main partners in the Arab World, His Majesty King Hussein and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak.

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## Albright starts rescue mission of peace with pro-Israeli statement

*Such one-sided approach, wholly committed to the Israeli side, will not be conducive to an evenhanded mission — Ashrawi*

Combined agency dispatches

U.S. SECRETARY of State Madeleine Albright Wednesday launched a mission to rescue the collapsing peace process with a strong statement of support for Israel's security and no mention of halting settlement building and expansion.

Speaking at a meeting with Israeli President Ezer Weizman, Ms. Albright backed Israeli demands that the Palestinian National Authority crack down on Islamists. "We are with you in the battle against terror and the struggle for security," she said.

"We are with you in your insistence that the Palestinian [National] Authority fulfill the responsibilities and obligations that it has undertaken."

Palestinian security officials said Wednesday that since last week's bombing in Jerusalem, they have arrested more than 100 suspected Islamists, including 15 overnight.

An aide to Mr. Netanyahu dismissed the new detentions as cosmetic and merely a gesture to Ms. Albright.

She later met with Mr. Netanyahu and his top diplomatic and security aides.

The secretary said Wednesday that in her meetings with Mr. Netanyahu, she would stress the need for "mutual responsibility and a new sense of partnership."

That was an indirect reminder to Mr. Netanyahu that Mr. Clinton's administration wants Israel to pull back its troops in the West Bank, as promised, and to carry out the remaining issues in the interim peace accords.

An Israeli official who spoke on condition of anonymity said Ms. Albright's comments were "very satisfying for Israel."

She was due to meet Mr. Arafat Thursday in the West Bank city of Ramallah and then see Mr. Netanyahu again that night.

Another round of separate talks with the two was possible Friday before Ms. Albright heads off for visits to Syria, Egypt, Jordan and Saudi Arabia, officials said.

Ms. Albright addressed indirectly Palestinians' insistence that the crisis can be resolved only if Mr. Netanyahu returns to the land-for-peace principles which had underpinned the peace process launched four years ago under U.S. auspices.

"In the coming days and meetings with Mr. Netanyahu and other leaders, I will have much more to say about the peace process and the need for mutual responsibilities and a renewed partnership," she said.

"Although we are very much focused this week on the question of security, we also know that the path to real security is not separable from the path to real peace," she said.

But she made no mention of Jewish settlement building on occupied lands, which sparked the current crisis six months ago nor of Mr. Netanyahu's decision to freeze further troop

withdrawals from the West Bank following the recent bombings.

Palestinians say such measures have all but destroyed hope that the peace process will achieve their goal of creating their own state.

"I feel that such a one-sided approach, wholly committed to the Israeli side, will not be conducive to an evenhanded mission," complained Hanan Ashrawi, a minister in the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) government, of Ms. Albright's speech.

In the Palestinian-run West Bank city of Nablus, protesters burned the U.S. flag and a caricature of Ms. Albright wearing a Star of David necklace.

"This protest is a message that America's policy of bias towards Israel will only bring destruction back to this region," said Salim Khilla, one of the organizers.

Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erekat said the U.S. must ensure implementation of agreements and restore faith in the Israel-PLO accord signed at the White House on Sept. 13, 1993.

"If an agreement signed at the White House can be buried by an Israeli government, then what will be the fate of any agreement in the future?" said Mr. Erekat.

He said that for Ms. Albright's mission to succeed there must be a freeze on Jewish settlement building and a pledge by Israel to go forward with promised troop withdrawals in the West Bank.

Israeli officials said they expected the U.S. to propose a freeze in building of Jewish settlements, including the Jewish settlement project on Jabal Abu Ghneim in Arab east Jerusalem.

An Israeli TV report said the proposed freeze was 45 days, an offer the Palestinians were likely to turn down.

The visit, Ms. Albright's first to the region since becoming secretary of state eight months ago, comes as the peace accords signed four years ago this week in Washington are unraveling.

Political contacts are stalled, Mr. Arafat refuses to make mass arrests of Islamists, and Israel says it won't turn over any more land until he does.

Mr. Netanyahu is expected to propose moving immediately to talks on a permanent settlement and discussion of the most sensitive issues such as Jerusalem.

Palestinians view this as an attempt to get out of an attempt to get out of pledges to make further land concessions.

The Israeli daily Maariv reported that Ms. Albright will propose "a new code of conduct" to end recriminations and a "political safety net" to guarantee Israeli withdrawals by mid-1998 if a permanent settlement is not reached.

En route to Israel, the first stop on a difficult, week-long trip, Ms. Albright told reporters she would insist that Mr. Netanyahu commit

(Continued on page 7)



Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright talk, Wednesday. The two leaders met for more than two-and-a-half hours. Tomorrow Ms. Albright meets Palestinian President Yasser Arafat (Reuters photo)

## Albright slated to address Palestinians through radio

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright was slated to address the Palestinian people directly over the Palestinian National Authority's official radio station during her peace-making mission which began Wednesday, officials said.

"We have agreed in principle on this unprecedented broadcast, but Ms. Albright's crowded schedule might interfere with the timing," said Bassam Abu Sumayah, director of the official Voice of Palestine radio.

Officials at the U.S. consulate in Jerusalem confirmed that Ms. Albright

hoped to reach out to the Palestinian public via the radio on Thursday as part of her effort to help revive the faltering peace process between them and the Israelis.

Ms. Albright arrived Wednesday morning for three days of talks with Israeli and Palestinian leaders whose relations have plunged into crisis since the right-wing government of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu came to power 15 months ago.

On her arrival Ms. Albright said a key to reviving the peace process was renewing the sense of "mutual responsibility"

and partnership between the two sides and she has scheduled a series of unusual events to take this message beyond political leaders and directly to the people.

After meeting Wednesday morning with Israeli President Ezer Weizman, Ms. Albright visited Jerusalem recovering from wounds suffered in Palestinian suicide bombings.

She was also scheduled to visit with schoolchildren both in Jerusalem and the Palestinian-run West Bank city of Ramallah to tell them of the importance of peaceful coexistence.

**Palestinians say Israel hiding information on bombings**

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Just hours before U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright arrived in Israel, Israeli troops rounded up another half-dozen suspected activists on the West Bank, Palestinian sources said.

The arrests, in the Israeli-controlled villages of Dura and Dahiriyyah near Hebron, came as Israel continues to hunt for those behind two bombings in Jerusalem over the past six weeks. Also on Wednesday, the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) accused Israel of hiding evidence that the assassins in the last two Jerusalem bombings came from abroad.

Israel is withholding the information in order to pressure the Palestinians into carrying out mass arrests of suspected Islamists in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, the official Voice of Palestine radio quoted Tayeb Abdul Rahim, the secretary general of the PNA, as saying.

**Opposition lawmaker urges Arafat to accept final status talks**

RAMALLAH (AP) — Yossi Beilin, one of the leading architects of the Israeli-Palestinian accords, urged President Yasser Arafat in a meeting Tuesday to accept any proposal to enter talks on a final peace settlement with Israel.

Mr. Beilin said he travelled to the autonomous West Bank town of Ramallah "to tell [Arafat] that if there is an U.S. suggestion" to accept Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's offer for final status talks, "please take it."

Mr. Beilin and Mr. Arafat agreed that the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) and Israel's Labour Party, now in opposition, would sign a document promising to continue the peace process.

The document will be signed next week, on the fourth anniversary of the signing of the first peace accord, Mr. Beilin said. The signatory for Israel

will be Leah Rabin, wife of the Israeli leader who was assassinated in 1995 by a Jewish extremist who opposed the peacemaking.

Under Mr. Netanyahu, who was elected last year, the gradualist approach of that accord has faltered. Mr. Netanyahu has suggested a quick negotiation for a final peace settlement instead, but Mr. Arafat has demurred, apparently fearing there was no chance of achieving his goal of an independent state with Mr. Netanyahu.

There is speculation that U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, who arrives Wednesday, will propose a package including the resumption of final status talks.

Mr. Beilin said that even if Mr. Arafat feels that Mr. Netanyahu does not sincerely desire to reach a settlement, the "dynamic of negotiation" was important could yield results.

## Lebanese army open fire at Israeli helicopters, warships

SIDON (AFP) — The Lebanese army fired at Israeli helicopters and warships near Lebanon's southern coast at dawn Wednesday, Lebanese police said.

Lebanese soldiers deployed between Jiye village and the port city of Sidon, 40 kilometres south of Beirut, opened fire with heavy machineguns on the helicopters flying over the coast at low altitude, the police said.

At the same time, Lebanese artillery shot dozens of mortar rounds at Israeli ships near the coast.

Lebanese newspapers said Wednesday morning that an Israeli attempt to land had been thwarted by the Lebanese army.

Military experts said the Israeli movements were on-site training aimed at eluding the Lebanese army.

Despite a low media profile, the Lebanese military played a leading role in the failure of the Israeli commando operation in southern Lebanon last Friday in which 12 Israeli soldiers died.

Lebanese anti-aircraft artillery on the coast between Sidon and Tyre, 80 kilometres south of Beirut, hampered the advance of the elite Israeli unit landing at Insarrah and of Israeli helicopters sent to assist.

The Israeli soldiers were killed in mine explosions and clashes with Lebanese soldiers, Hizbollah guerrillas and fighters of the Amal militia.

## Israeli troops, Hizbollah guerrillas clash in south

MARIJAYOUN (AFP) — Violent clashes erupted on Wednesday evening between Hizbollah guerrillas and Israeli troops inside the self-declared Israeli security zone in south Lebanon occupied since 1985, security officials said.

Anti-tank rockets and automatic gunfire rained over the border area near the Lebanese village of Hula at around 8:30 p.m., followed by an exchange of mortar fire, the security officials said. There were no immediate reports of casualties.

A spokesman for the Islamic Resistance, the military wing of Hizbollah, said that a commando unit of its "special forces" ambushed an Israeli foot patrol near the Lebanese-Israeli border.

"Our fighters fired at the enemy patrol only a few metres away," the spokesman added.

On Friday, 12 elite Israeli troops were killed after being ambushed during a bungled raid in south Lebanon.

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(Continued on page 7)

## Hizbollah, Israel start negotiating on remains

BEIRUT (R) — The leader of Hizbollah group Wednesday said it was negotiating the exchange of Lebanese prisoners held by Israel for body parts from 12 Israelis killed in a botched commando raid.

"Negotiations started a few days ago," Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah, 38, said at his headquarters in Beirut's southern suburbs. "The channel which is mediating at the moment is the ICRC [International Committee of the Red Cross]. We have not closed the door on other channels."

"We prefer that details of

this operation remain behind closed doors for the best interest of captives, prisoners and the deal as a whole," he said in an interview.

Israel holds an estimated 50 Lebanese prisoners inside its own borders and another 125 indirectly at Khiam prison inside the strip of south Lebanon it occupies with the aid of its client Lebanese militia, the south Lebanon army. Hizbollah guerrillas are fighting to drive Israeli forces out.

(Continued on page 7)

## UNRWA to cancel part of austerity measures

By Ghalia Alai  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — After securing \$19 million in special grants from donor nations and covering its \$20 million deficit, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) Wednesday decided to cancel part of the austerity measures which have recently induced feelings of anguish and uncertainty among Palestinian refugees.

Although the contributions, pledged to the agency during a two-day meeting for donor nations in Amman, covered the agency's \$20 million budget deficit, it did not cover the real \$70 million budget gap of which about \$50 million were reduced by the austerity measures.

UNRWA still faces a difficult task of enlarging its donor base and increasing



Peter Hansen

its donor contributions to prevent any further budget deficits which could lead to further service cut-backs.

"There is no reason for rejoicing at the long-term, we cannot relax our efforts in any way, we still have to work very hard with the host countries to make sure that we can maintain UNRWA on fine financial foot," UNRWA Commissioner General Peter

Hansen told reporters in a press conference on Wednesday.

Mr. Hansen said that among the austerity measures lifted were those that imposed charges on UNRWA school students and froze hospital reimbursements and referrals.

But other measures are still in force which include the 15 per cent reduction in international staff and the suspension of recruitment of additional teachers.

According to a statement by UNRWA, the agency would continue to provide scholarship subsidies for existing recipients. Under current funding projections, however, it would only be possible to finance new scholarships if special additional funding was secured.

During the two-day meeting, Japan announced that its annual pledge

(Continued on page 7)

## U.N. draft to help make up for Iraqi failure to sell oil quota

UNITED NATIONS (R) — A resolution was circulated in the Security Council Tuesday to enable Iraq to sell its full \$2 billion quota of "oil-for-food" in the 180 days that began June 8 while accommodating its failure to sell \$1 billion worth in the first 90 days ended September 5.

The resolution, drafted by the U.S., Britain and France and citing humanitarian considerations, was expected to be adopted Wednesday or Thursday. This will depend on discussions dur-

ing council consultations scheduled for Wednesday.

Under the resolution, the first 90-day period would be extended to 120 days, until October 5, giving Iraq another month in which to sell the approximately \$432 million worth of oil it failed to sell by September 5.

The resolution, however, also reduces the second 90-day period to 60 days, during which Iraq must sell the second \$1 billion quota.

Under the "oil-for-food" programme that went into effect last December, Iraq is

allowed to sell \$2 billion worth of oil every six months — in equal \$1 billion quotas every 90 days — to buy humanitarian supplies to offset the effects of sanctions in force since its August 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

Iraq sold only about \$568 million worth in the first half of the 180-day period that began June 8 after refusing to sell any oil until the U.N. had

(Continued on page 7)



# Iraq destroying chemical weapons, U.N. envoy says

MANAMA (AFP) — Iraq has begun destroying its chemical weapons and has agreed to disclose the secrets of its germ warfare programme, U.N. disarmament envoy Richard Butler said Tuesday.

"Destruction of weapons, relating to chemical warfare is taking place in Iraq," Mr. Butler said at a news conference in Manama, the rear base for the U.N. Special Commission on Disarming Iraq (UNSCOM) which he heads.

The arms "were identified some time ago, but there was a problem in the destruction process," he said, adding "the agreement has now been reached and destruction is now going on."

"We will expect Baghdad to give us a full, final and complete declaration on this soon," Mr. Butler said. He also said Iraqi missiles parts were being eliminated.

"We have recorded significant progress in special missile warheads area. We have identified the destruction of almost all of them including those imported from the former Soviet Union," he said.

"The total number of SCUD (missiles) was recorded as 819," he said, adding "the number of those not yet accounted for is very small — less than 10."

Earlier Tuesday in Baghdad, Mr. Butler said: "The Iraqi government will hand over to UNSCOM today or tomorrow, within the next 48 hours, their full, final

## Gulf officials to discuss Iraq

KUWAIT (R) — Gulf Arab foreign ministers will review Iraq's compliance with U.N. resolutions and the Middle East peace process at an upcoming meeting in Saudi Arabia, the official Kuwaiti news agency KUNA said Tuesday.

It quoted Gulf diplomatic sources as saying the foreign ministers of the six-member Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) due to meet in the southwestern Saudi city of Abha Sunday would also discuss "positive developments" in Iraq's stand towards its Arab neighbours.

"Among the most prominent topics on the agenda of the... [meeting] is to review the extent of Iraq's compliance with international resolutions linked to its aggression against the state of Kuwait, and the United Nations efforts to destroy weapons of mass destruction it possesses," KUNA said.

The head of the U.N. Special Commission (UNSCOM) on Iraq said after talks with Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz Tuesday that Iraq would hand to the U.N. a full declaration on its germ warfare programme in the next 48 hours.

UNSCOM must certify that Baghdad has no weapons of mass destruction before the United Nations lifts curbs on Iraqi oil exports imposed after Iraq's 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

and complete declaration on Iraq's past biological weapons programme."

The Iraqi report, covering some 800 pages, "is something we have waited for," Mr. Butler said.

"It is important and it will mark an important occasion, which is what I will be able now to say to the [U.N.] Security Council that all full, final and complete disclosures have been lodged with UNSCOM."

A U.N. oil embargo imposed after the 1990 Iraqi invasion of Kuwait can only be lifted when

UNSCOM certifies that Baghdad has dismantled all weapons of mass destruction and banned arms programmes.

But UNSCOM has in the past voiced dissatisfaction with "full reports" from Baghdad on other arms programmes.

While working to eliminate Iraq's chemical and nuclear programmes and its long-range missile capability, UNSCOM has said that accounting for Iraqi stocks of the deadly agents Anthrax and VX remains its main outstanding concern.

UNSCOM experts have said the amount of the agents produced in Iraq was four times more than enough to kill the world's entire population.

In August 1995, Iraq admitted to filling warheads with biological agents. A month later, Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz said that if his country had come under nuclear attack in the 1991 Gulf war over Kuwait, it would have retaliated with biological weapons.

Mr. Butler, emerging Tuesday from a final session of talks with Mr. Aziz, said the discussions between their two delegations had been "vigorous... very direct, and very frank."

"We focused in particular on the results of the work programme" which was agreed during his last visit in July.

"And we are very satisfied with some of the results that we have obtained, in particular in the missiles and chemical weapons areas," said Mr. Butler, adding however that more work remained in both fields.

He said their talks were also centred on "special warheads that were produced in the past, possibly filled with chemical and/or biological agents."

"We had a well-focused discussion on how many warheads were there, what did they contain and where are they now. And we made good progress in that area," the Australian diplomat added.



CLOSURE STILL ON: An Israeli Border Policeman on Wednesday checks the back of a Palestinian at an Israeli checkpoint outside Jerusalem. U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright arrived the same day in a bid to revive the Middle East peace process after two suicide bombings in central Jerusalem since late July left 20 Israelis dead (Reuters)

## S. Arabia blames Israel for deadlock

ROME (R) — Saudi Arabia's defence minister blamed Israel for stalling the Middle East peace process and called for a halt to "stupid actions" that harm both sides in the dispute.

"Before [Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin] Netanyahu's government, the process was going with wisdom and with serenity both on the part of the Israelis and Palestinians," Prince Sultan Ben Abdul Aziz told a news conference.

"Before, we used to talk about peace for the territories. Now instead, Netanyahu talks about security in exchange for peace."

He added: "I launch an appeal to Israel on the part of Saudi Arabia to put an end to those stupid actions which hurt both them and the Palestinians." He did not specify which actions he meant.

Prince Sultan met Italian Prime Minister Romano Prodi earlier in the day to discuss bilateral ties and the peace process, which ground

to a halt in March after Israel began work on a Jewish settlement project in Arab east Jerusalem. "We are against terrorism and killing but the fight for one's country is not a deplorable action," Prince Sultan said.

"We are against those who want to destroy Israel and we ask Israel not to destroy Arabs [in the occupied territories] and to give them the rights they're entitled to."

Both he and Mr. Prodi pledged to work towards "a just and global peace."

## Israel looking for culprits in grave desecration

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — Israeli police are searching for extremists who left a pig's head near the grave of a 1930s Palestinian leader, a police spokeswoman said Tuesday.

The pig's head was left near the grave of Izzeddine Al Qassam Sunday to express anger over last week's Jerusalem bombing which was claimed by the Izzeddine Al Qassam Brigade, Hamas' military wing named after him.

An anonymous caller to Israel Radio claimed the act for a Jewish group named "Hagai."

Police spokeswoman Shlomit Minkovsky told the Associated Press Tuesday that police had not previously heard of the group and were investigating.

Al Qassam was one of the leaders of the Arab revolt against the British rulers of Palestine in the 1930s. After his death, he became a mythical figure for Palestinians.

The desecration of the cemetery was condemned by the mayor of the northern Israeli town of Neshet, where it is located.

"For all these years, we have protected the Muslim cemetery, and in the future too, we will prevent any attempt to harm the graves at the site," Mayor David Omer was quoted as saying by the Haaretz daily.

## U.S. rights group warns against extradition of Saudi bomb suspect

DUBAI (AFP) — The U.S.-based Human Rights Watch appealed Wednesday to U.S. legal authorities not to extradite to Riyadh a Saudi citizen suspected of links with the 1996 Dhahran bombing.

The rights group urged the Justice Department not to deport or extradite Hani Abdul Rahim Sayegh, in a letter to U.S. Attorney General Janet Reno, a copy of which was faxed to Agence France Presse.

Saudi Ambassador to Washington Bandar Sultan Ben Abdul Aziz Al Saud said Tuesday that his country has requested Sayegh's extradition after Washington decided to drop charges against the 28-year-old Saudi.

The Justice Department said on Monday steps are

underway that could result in Sayegh's leaving the United States.

"In the event that the Saudi authorities establish that all of the requisites for extradition are met... the United States would respond appropriately to the Saudi request," it said.

The department has asked a judge to drop charges filed against the Saudi suspect when he arrived in the United States. The judge was expected to rule on Wednesday.

Sayegh, deported from Canada in June, is suspected of having conducted reconnaissance in the eastern Saudi city of Dhahran before a truck bomb killed 19 U.S. soldiers at the U.S. housing complex on June 25,

1996.

In a deal which fell through, he was to have faced lesser charges of involvement in earlier anti-U.S. attacks in the kingdom that were not carried out, in exchange for information on the Dhahran blast.

But on July 30, he pleaded not guilty to terrorist activity and has refused to cooperate with U.S. authorities.

Sayegh has said he was in Iran at the time of the Dhahran attack, and denies belonging to the Saudi Hizbollah movement. He has called himself a political dissident and voiced fears for his life if sent back to his country.

## Three Israeli Knesset members arrive in Egypt in attempt to release convicted spy

CAIRO (AFP) — Three Israeli MPs arrived here late Tuesday to hold "informal" talks with the president of the Egyptian parliament to seek the release of an Israeli Arab imprisoned in Egypt for spying for the Jewish state.

"We hope that tomorrow, after tomorrow or some time this week we will meet Mr. Srour or other Egyptians to talk, but it will be personal talking," Raanan Cohen, parliamentary leader of the opposition Labour Party, told Agence France Presse.

Mr. Cohen was accompanied to Egypt by the parliamentary chief of the ruling Likud Party, Meir Shitrit, and Labour Deputy Avi Yezbekel.

Mr. Cohen said he wanted to keep the level of talks with the president of Egypt's People's Assembly, Ahmad Fathi Srour, "very quiet and friendly."

"I have known Mr. Srour for many years, we will talk about a lot of things, including this thing which is an issue in Israel. It will be a friendly talk, not formal," Mr. Cohen said.

Mr. Cohen was referring to Azzam Azzam, an Israeli Druze who was sentenced last month in Cairo to serve 15 years in prison with hard labour for spying.

"We will see if somebody can help," Mr. Cohen said.

He stressed that the Israeli MPs were visiting Egypt to attend the 98th Inter-Parliamentary Union

(IPU) conference which begins a five-day meeting in Cairo on Thursday under Mr. Srour's chairmanship.

An Israeli parliamentary official said earlier in Jerusalem that the MPs would ask for Azzam's release during a scheduled meeting with Mr. Srour.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, in repeated public statements and phone calls and a letter to President Hosni Mubarak, said the verdict was entirely unjustified and that he would "do everything" to obtain Azzam's release.

According to the Israeli newspaper Haaretz, Mr. Mubarak sent Mr. Netanyahu an angry letter last week accusing him of using the case to curry

favour with Israel's 80,000-strong Druze community. The Druze sect is an offshoot of Islam.

Mr. Mubarak said Mr. Netanyahu's statements had put him in a tough situation, implying that the Israeli leader's high-profile actions had made it more difficult to consider a possible pardon for Azzam.

"You are not the only one confronted by public opinion," he was quoted as saying, asking Mr. Netanyahu and his aides to halt their public criticism of the Egyptian judicial system.

Relations between Israel and Egypt, which signed a peace treaty in 1979, have deteriorated since Mr. Netanyahu came to power last year.

### JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 773111-19

### PROGRAMME TWO

14:10 .....Ovide and the Gang  
14:30 .....The New Fred and Barney  
15:00 .....America's Funniest People  
15:30 .....He Shoots He Scores  
16:30 .....Shingalana  
17:00 .....French Programmes  
19:00 .....News in French  
19:15 .....French Programmes  
19:30 .....News Headlines  
19:35 .....Trivial Pursuit  
20:00 .....Parenthood  
20:30 .....Lois and Clark — Superman  
21:10 .....Kung Fu  
22:00 .....News in English  
22:30 .....Feature Film  
23:15 .....Step By Step  
23:59 .....End of T.X.

### PRAYER TIMES

04:53 .....Fajr  
06:12 .....(Sunrise) Dhuha  
12:32 .....Dhuhr  
16:05 .....Asr  
18:53 .....Maghreb  
20:12 .....Isha

### CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church  
Swifefeh, Tel. 810740  
Assemblies of God Church Tel.  
632785.  
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590  
Church of the Annunciation  
Tel. 637440.  
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757.  
Terra Sancta Church Tel.

### JORDAN VALLEY

622366

Anglican Church Tel. 652826.  
Armenian Catholic Church  
Tel. 771331.  
Armenian Orthodox Church  
Tel. 775261.  
St. Ephraim Church Tel.  
771751.  
Armenian International Church  
Tel. 5516245.  
Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Tel. 824328.  
German-speaking Evangelical  
Congregation Tel. 688404.  
The Latter-Day Saints Tel.  
654932.  
Church of Nazareth Tel.  
675691.  
The Evangelical Local Church  
in Amman Tel. 811295.  
English-speaking  
Latin Catholics Parish Tel.  
614190.

### WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology  
It will fine with temperatures lower than average by three degrees centigrade and winds northwesterly moderate to active. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate to active and seas calm.

### AMMAN

Amman .....14/28  
Aqaba .....22/34  
Deserts .....15/31

### EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre .....637111.  
Civil Defence Department .....661111  
Civil Defence Immediate Rescue .....630341

### Civil Defence Emergency

199

Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777  
Fire Brigade .....617101  
Blood Bank .....775121  
Highway Police .....843402  
Traffic Police .....896390  
Public Security Department .....630321  
Hotel Complaints .....605800  
Price Complaints .....661176  
Water and Sewerage Complaints .....897467  
Amman Municipality Complaints .....787111  
Telephone Information (directory assistance) .....121  
Overseas Calls .....010230  
Central Amman Telephone Repairs .....623101  
Abdali Telephone Repairs .....661101  
Jordan Television .....774111  
Radio Jordan .....680100  
Water Authority .....815615  
Jordan Electricity Authority .....636381  
Electric Power Company .....813813/32

### USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY  
AMMAN:  
Dr. Mukles Mazabreh 820425  
Dr. Wisam Hazyin .....748563  
Dr. Munir Al Khateb .....839888  
Dr. Abdul Hadi Tayyem .....630115  
Firas pharmacy .....661912  
Ferdous pharmacy .....778336  
Al Asena pharmacy .....657055  
Nairookh pharmacy .....623672  
Al Salam pharmacy .....636730  
Yacoub pharmacy .....649495  
Shmeisani pharmacy .....637660  
Najib pharmacy .....847632  
IRBID:  
Dr. Ghazi Ta'anneh .....250080  
Al Quds pharmacy .....(—)  
ZARQA:  
Dr. Salah Safrini .....987565  
Khalifeh pharmacy .....985417

### HOSPITALS

AMMAN:  
Husseln Medical Centre .....813813/32  
Khalidi Maternity .....644281/6  
Al-Jeh Maternity .....643441/2  
Jabal Amman Maternity .....642362  
Malhas, J. Amman .....636140  
Palestine, Shmeisani 607071  
Shmeisani Hospital .....669131  
University Hospital .....845845  
Al-Muasher Hospital .....6672279  
The Islamic, Abdali 666126/37  
Al-Ahli, Abdali .....664164/6  
Italian, Al-Muhajreen .....777101/3  
Al-Bashir .....775111/26  
Army, Marisa .....891611/15  
Queen Alia Hospital .....602240/50  
Amal Hospital .....674155  
The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery .....665199  
ZARQA:  
Zarqa Govt. Hospital .....09/83323  
Zarqa National Hospital .....09/900560  
Ibn Sina Hospital (09/86732  
Al Hikma Modern Hospital .....09/990990  
IRBID:  
Princess Basma Hospital .....02/275555  
Greek Catholic Hospital .....02/272275  
Ibn Al Nafes Hospital .....02/247100  
AQABA:  
Princess Haya Hospital

### FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53200 where it should always be verified.

### ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights  
08:05 .....Sanaa (RJ)  
09:45 .....Bombay (RJ)  
10:05 .....Dhahran, Riyadh (RJ)  
10:20 .....Bahrain (RJ)  
10:35 .....Beirut (RJ)  
10:40 .....Muscat, Dubai (RJ)  
10:40 .....New Delhi (RJ)  
11:00 .....Colombo (RJ)  
15:25 .....Kuwait (RJ)  
15:55 .....New York, Amsterdam (RJ)  
17:05 .....Moscow (RJ)  
17:30 .....London (RJ)  
19:10 .....Athens (RJ)  
19:20 .....Bangkok, Calcutta (RJ)  
19:45 .....Abu Dhabi, Al Ain (RJ)  
23:35 .....Doha (RJ)

### Other Flights

11:00 .....Al 'Arish (add) (PF)  
13:00 .....Riyadh (SV)  
13:55 .....Doha (GF)  
14:30 .....Al 'Arish (PF)  
14:40 .....Sharjah (AH)  
16:00 .....Rome (AZ)  
19:50 .....Tel Aviv (LY)  
21:00 .....Cairo (MS)  
21:10 .....Beirut (ME)  
01:20 .....Amsterdam, Beirut (KL)  
05:40 .....London (BA)  
09:00 .....Dubai (EK)

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09:00 .....Dubai (EK)

### Other Flights

(For Thursday and Friday)

06:45 .....Aqaba (RW)  
07:20 .....Amman (QAIA) (RW)  
10:05 .....Amman (Marka Airport) (RW)  
18:20 .....Tel Aviv (RW)  
19:30 .....Amman (QAIA) (RW)  
22:30 .....Aqaba (RW)  
23:50 .....Amman (Marka Airport) (RW)

### DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights  
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07:20 .....Moscow (RJ)  
09:10 .....Kuwait (RJ)  
11:35 .....Abu Dhabi, Al Ain (RJ)  
11:55 .....Amsterdam, New York (RJ)  
12:10 .....Tunis, Casablanca (RJ)  
12:20 .....Amsterdam, Chicago (RJ)  
13:45 .....Amsterdam, Montreal, Toronto (RJ)  
13:15 .....Paris (RJ)  
13:20 .....Athens (RJ)

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## Three men released after security evidence after seizure

By Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Due to lack of evidence, the State Security Court Wednesday ordered the release of three men who were arrested after a security raid on a private residence in Amman. The men, who were arrested on suspicion of being involved in a security breach, were released after a thorough investigation found no evidence against them. The court's decision was welcomed by the men's families, who had been worried about their safety. The incident highlights the importance of evidence in security cases and the need for fair trials.

## WHAT'S GOING ON

LEBANESE ART FESTIVAL

Musical Performance by Lebanese Signers at King Abdullah Gardens, Thursday and Friday, at 8:30 p.m.

## FILMS

"Conica del Albu" rep. by Instituto Cervantes, at Amman, Thursday, at 8:30 p.m.  
"The Man Without a Face" at the American Centre, Amman, Thursday, at 8:30 p.m.

## EXHIBITIONS

Works by Ali Al Yashari at the Jordan Plastic Art





Her Majesty Queen Noor Wednesday visits a school and meets with a mother and her young child during her tour of the Ma'an governorate (Petra photo) ●

## Queen Noor tours Ma'an Governorate, villages

AMMAN — Her Majesty Queen Noor Wednesday toured the governorate of Ma'an, where she visited the Ma'an Government Hospital, several Ministry of Social Development institutions, and schools, according to a press release Wednesday.

As a follow-up to His Majesty King Hussein's visit to Ma'an last month, Queen Noor inspected the facilities of the Ma'an Hospital and concentrated on the maternity, gynaecological, and children's wards, the statement continued.

At the Dar Al Hanan for orphaned and abandoned teenage girls, the Queen and the Minister of Social Development Mohammad Khair agreed that the institute would be relocated to Amman as soon as possible to enable the young girls to be closer to their extended families, the statement read.

Queen Noor also met with the members of the Society for the Care of the Disabled, which looks after children suffering from cerebral palsy and audiological problems. The Queen, who is honorary president of the Cerebral Palsy Foundation, reviewed the society's plans for a comprehensive cerebral palsy centre, which is named after HRH Prince Firas Ra'ed and is financed by the Industrial Development Bank and the Japanese embassy, according to the statement.

The centre, which will open soon, will provide boarding facilities for severely disabled children, a department for early diagnosis of disabilities and audiological problems, as well as classrooms and a professional care unit for the children, the statement said.

In Hashimiyah, the Queen also visited the Queen Noor Welfare Society, inaugurated in 1990, and, as part of Al Ilm Noor Student Relief programme, the Hashimiyah Primary Schools for Girls and for Boys, the statement continued.

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The Queen concluded her visit to Ma'an by inspecting the Noor Al Hussein Foundation's (NHF) Hweitat Weaving Project in Al Husseiniyah Village. The income-generating project was established by HNF's

Jordan Design and Trade Centre in 1990, with funding by USAID, for the production of hand-woven rugs; it provides training and work for the women of the community whose income is vital to the well-being of their families, the statement continued.

Queen Noor expressed her pride in their work, which she said King Hussein and their family enjoy in their own home, as well as give away as important presents. She also met with the Hweitat's two Peace Corps volunteers, who have been living in the village for the past month to help in marketing and product development. Al Hweitat rugs have won an award at an international carpet exhibition in Atlanta and have attracted tourists, who come to the centre to buy the hand-woven products, the statement read.

Queen Noor was accompanied by King Hussein's Health Secretary HRH Prince Firas Ra'ed, Minister of Social Development Dr. Mohammad Khair Mamsar, Al Ilm Noor Fund Coordinator H.E. Mrs. Salwa Dams-Masri, Secretary General of the Ministry of Education and of Health, NHF Executive Director and Ma'an's Directors of Education, Health and Social Development, the statement concluded.

## Weeklies' compliance with press law 'still under scrutiny' — minister

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Information has not decided to close any of the weekly tabloid papers, as reported in the local press, but the status of the papers is still under scrutiny, Minister of State for Information Affairs Samir Mutawi said Wednesday.

During a meeting with editors of newspapers and heads of information departments, Dr. Mutawi said the Press and Publications Department is studying each tabloid's documents, as submitted by the proprietors, to determine their compliance with the Press and Publications Law and its amendments.

The government amended the law last May, requiring each weekly paper to have a registered capital of JD300,000, and each daily to have a registered capital of JD600,000.

Dr. Mutawi said failure to enforce the Press and Publications Law in the past had encouraged the weeklies to act in an irresponsible manner.

Last month, the Press and Publications Department sent notifications to the 18 weekly papers demanding reports on their financial

accounts by the end of August 1997.

Speaking on the dialogue with the opposition political parties, the minister said the dialogue did not fail and the door was still open for all groups and representatives.

Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali has already met twice with Islamist groups boycotting the 1997 elections, and has also conferred with representatives of the National Constitutional Party and opposition groups which did not declare a boycott.

On Ibrahim Ghosheh, the spokesman for the Hamas resistance movement who was arrested Sunday, the minister said Mr. Ghosheh was detained for questioning in connection with his statement, which Dr. Mutawi said was considered harmful to national security.

He said Jordan would never be party to an alliance directed against an Arab state.

"If there are any manoeuvres in the region that could harm the security of an Arab country, Jordan will adopt stands dictated by the Kingdom's national commitments," he explained.



Minister of State for Information Affairs Samir Mutawi Wednesday discusses the issue of the weekly papers' compliance during a meeting with newspaper editors (Petra photo)

Referring to the Cairo summit meeting, attended by the leaders of Egypt, Jordan, and Palestine, Dr. Mutawi said the meeting was for an exchange of views and coordination of positions prior to the visit by U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright.

He expressed hope that the U.S. secretary will bring positive ideas to give impetus to the peace process and re-establish confidence among the concerned parties.

Dr. Mutawi discussed a plan for restructuring the Ministry of Information and

disclosed that work is underway to create a media training institute to train cadres in media-related affairs.

The institute would offer training to Jordanians and personnel from other Arab and friendly states, he concluded.

## Princess Basma receives delegation of Islamic scholars

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Wednesday received a delegation of Jordanian Islamic scholars scheduled to leave for Cairo Friday to study Egyptian expertise in the fields of family planning, development, and population.

Princess Basma voiced her happiness that women have the opportunity to join the delegation, stating that women are now an essential part of the Jordanian community.

Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Abdul Salam Ahmadi said plans for promoting development cannot be fulfilled if they do not stem from Islamic beliefs.

The delegation includes

as members the ministry Secretary General Abdul Fattah Amin, the National Population Commission (NPC) Secretary General Nabih Salameh, Mufti of the Armed Forces Mahmoud Shwayyat, Dean of the University of Jordan's Faculty of Sharia Mahmoud Sartawi, Chief Justice Office Director General Issam Arabiyat, Dean of Princess Alia Community College Samira Khawaldeh, Member of the Islamic Action Front Shura Council Nawal Fauri, as well as other members of the Armed Forces and the Public Security Department.

The visit is organised by the NPC in cooperation with the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs.

## Representative to Palestinian areas leaves for Gaza

AMMAN (J.T.) — The head of Jordan's Representation Office in the Palestinian Self-Rule Areas Ziyad Majali left Amman Wednesday for Gaza after attending the meetings of donor nations and Arab states hosting refugees, which ended Tuesday.

The meetings resulted in the donor nations pledging over \$23 million in special grants to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), helping the cash-strapped U.N. organisation cover its immediate \$20 million budget deficit through 1997.

Before his departure, Mr. Majali said the meeting was successful, both politically and financially.

The donor nations seem to have realised the serious political implications, had UNRWA failed to offer its services to the refugees, he said.

During the meeting, which reviewed UNRWA's 1998 and 1999 fiscal budgets, Japan pledged \$12.6 million, the U.S. \$7.5 million, the Netherlands \$1 million, Germany \$1 million, Italy announced \$900,000, and Spain \$500,000.

Mr. Majali said Jordan pointed out the dangers that may have swept the region should UNRWA have went ahead with its austerity programme in its fields of operations. Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, the West Bank, and the Gaza Strip.

Referring to future budgets, he explained that the delegates agreed to pursue the task of securing sufficient funds for the agency during the upcoming meeting of the U.N. General Assembly, in order to avoid another deficit.

## Majali concludes conference; travels to Sudan for joint talks

SANAA (Petra) — Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali Wednesday concluded a three-day visit to Yemen and arrived in Khartoum for a two-day visit to Sudan, where he will attend the Higher Jordanian-Sudanese Joint Committee meeting.

The meeting is scheduled to cover bilateral relations, the current peace process, and other issues of common concern.

Prior to his departure from Sanaa, Dr. Majali and his Yemeni counterpart Dr. Faraj Ghanem signed a number of agreements and protocols on several topics designed to bolster bilateral ties.

The two sides reached understandings in the several fields.

In the political field, both parties expressed concern over the dangers facing the Middle East peace process, resulting from the Israeli government's current policies, and demanded that Israel abide by U.N. resolutions and commit to a comprehensive peace.

They noted the arbitrary Israeli measures and collective punishment levied against the Palestinian people, saying such measures tend to increase the dangers in the region.

They were disturbed by current attempts to transform the Red Sea and its littoral regions into a zone of conflict, which threatens international trade and regional maritime operations.

The two sides also expressed dismay over the embargo on the Iraqi people, continuous since 1990, and demanded that the sanctions be lifted to avert further suffering.

Finally, they expressed concern over the continued military confrontations in Sudan and Somalia and the massacres taking place in Algeria, and voiced support for all efforts to end the conflict in these three Arab states.

In finance, both parties voiced satisfaction with the ongoing "cooperation" in trade and economic matters, and endorsed measures to fully implement a 1995 trade agreement.

They expressed their desire to establish a free-trade zone, and willingness to submit draft plans for this zone at the next higher committee meeting.

In investment, a protocol was signed on technical cooperation between the Jordanian and Yemeni investment promotion corporations.

In the private sector, both nations encouraged the private sectors to embark on joint ventures and coordinate their contacts for promoting the exchange of products.

In industry, the committee agreed on training Yemeni cadres in Jordan and on despatching Jordanian experts to Yemen to train personnel in industry-related matters.

In taxation, customs, and planning, the two sides agreed to take steps to prevent dual taxation and implement a memorandum of understanding on customs issues, and Jordan expressed readiness to provide specialists in planning.

In energy, concerns, the committee agreed to speed up the implementation of an electrification project in Yemen by providing Jordanian expertise and training. It was also agreed to con-

vene a meeting by a joint technical committee on gas and oil to reactivate bilateral cooperation in this field.

In agriculture, the committee pledged to implement a 1995 agreement to encourage the two private sectors to embark on agricultural projects and to prepare lists of products that will be exchanged.

Jordan will supply Yemen with 15,000 olive tree saplings and 5,000 apple tree saplings, and will provide expertise in marketing agricultural products and in forestation projects.

In contracting and urban development, both parties agreed to establish a technical committee to develop plans for cooperation in these fields.

Jordan will train Yemeni personnel and send specialists to assist in urban development fields.

In transport and telecommunications, the two sides agreed to implement earlier accords on land and maritime transport.

Jordan proposed to conduct maintenance on Yemeni civil aircraft.

The Kingdom will send a team of experts to help install and maintain telecommunications facilities.

In health, the two sides signed a protocol on cooperation in health-related domains.

Yemen will register Jordanian-made drugs and allow Jordanian pharmaceuticals to be marketed there. Jordan and Yemen also agreed on measures for cooperation in social security, social affairs, judiciary, awqaf and Islamic affairs, sports and youth, education, and vocational training.

## Three men released on insufficient evidence after serving five years

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Due to lack of evidence, the State Security Court Wednesday ordered the release of three men who had served five years after being convicted of drug possession and trafficking.

Nayef Salem, 39, Hisham Musa, 42, and Midek Suleiman, 55, originally were sentenced to prison terms ranging from seven to ten years with hard labour by the State Security Court last September.

The three were detained by

authorities in December 1993.

Their case was reviewed by the Court of Cassation, which referred it to the state court for revision because of contradictory evidence that was presented by the state prosecutor.

In its ruling, the State Security Court, headed by Judge Yousef Faouri, stated that "after re-examining the case, we order the release of all three defendants for lack of evidence."

Meanwhile, the same court Wednesday began hearing the case of four men who are

accused of smuggling drugs and firearms from Syria since 1990.

Hassan Awad, 27, Hussein Raja, 21, Mohammad Mu'etir, 51, and Askar Odeh, 45, pleaded not guilty to charges of importing illegal arms and drugs, and possessing and trafficking drugs.

Until they were arrested in April 1997, the group allegedly managed to smuggle and sell M-16 rifles, machine guns, ammunition, and narcotics.

The court tribunal set Sept. 16 to start hearing the prosecution witnesses in the case.

## Taxi owners to bring lawsuit against minister

By Rana Hussein  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Taxi owners Wednesday announced their intention to file a lawsuit against Minister of Interior Naji Rashid, one month after the minister introduced new licensing procedures that they say will cost them high financial losses.

The new regulations, which prohibit them from selling their cars as public vehicles, enraged some taxi owners.

Defence Attorney Zuhair Abu Ragheh told the Jordan Times that he will file the lawsuit with the Higher Court of Justice on behalf of the Taxi Owners Union, who are demanding the cancellation of the new regulations.

"The new regulations violate the constitution and the law," Mr. Abu Ragheh said. He said the case will be filed against Mr. Rashid because he is the president of the licensing committee and therefore ratifies all the Central Traffic Committee's decisions.

"These new regulations are unfair and violate citizens' rights, and will affect more than 100,000 taxi owners, who will lose huge amounts of money if they decide to sell their vehicles," said Abdul Karim Mashaeikh, treasurer of the Taxi Owners Union.

Mr. Mashaeikh told the Jordan Times that most taxi owners paid over JD20,000 for their vehicles, "but now, since they are only allowed to sell it as a private vehicle, its value will drop dramatically and most public vehicles will be sold for less than JD4,000."

The new regulations also require a JD1 million capital with a minimum of 75 cars to operate an office in Amman, a JD500,000 capital to operate offices in Irbid and Zarqa, and JD25,000 for the rest of the Kingdom.

Further, each taxi is required to install wireless devices (radios) and be on call 24 hours a day.

The government had repeatedly stressed that the new regulations will not affect the already operating taxis.

In a recent interview with the Jordan Times, Secretary General of the Ministry of Interior Hashem Sabbagh said the government step was essential to meet the expected increase in the number of tourists who will visit the region within the next three years.

He explained that the new regulations are designed to increase employment opportunities, and create competition in order to improve the transportation service in the Kingdom.

### New outlet opens

AMMAN (J.T.) — Under the patronage of Her Royal Highness Princess Rania Al Abdullah, Jordan River Designs (JRD) opened its new outlet at Reem Al Bawadi Restaurant, according to a press release Wednesday.

The restaurant, which opened in June 1997, attracts many local and foreign visitors. The products displayed by JRD are all hand-made and complement the Arabic tradition of the restaurant, the statement continued.

JRD is continuously seeking to expand its local market, thus helping women living in low-income areas increase their family income, and as a result improve their living conditions and those of their children, the statement concluded.

### WHAT'S GOING ON

#### LEBANESE ART FESTIVAL

\* Musical performance by Lebanese signers at King Abdullah Gardens, Thursday and Friday, at 8:30 p.m.

#### FILMS

\* "Cronica del Alba" (ep. II) at Instituto Cervantes, Jabal Amman, Thursday, at 5:00 p.m.  
\* "The Man Without a Face" at the American Centre, Abdoun, Thursday at 5:00 p.m.

#### EXHIBITIONS

\* Works by Ali Al Yazhiki at the Jordan Plastic Art

Association, Jabal Weibdeh, until Sept. 16.

\* Fourth Pottery Exhibition by Mahmoud Sadiq and Da'ad Al Mufleh at Hamurabi Gallery, Gardens Street, until Sept. 19 (Tel. 55360981).

\* Paintings exhibition entitled "La Radioactive" at the French Cultural Centre, until Sept. 30.

\* Paintings by Palestinian artists entitled "Palestine the Reality and the Dream" at the Jordan National Gallery of Fine Arts, until Oct. 2 (except Tuesdays).

\* Bani Hamida exhibition (rugs, cushions, runners, wall hangings and baskets) at Al Baidar Hall of Kan Zaman, until Sept. 20.



## Haiti divers search for hundreds feared drowned in shipwreck

PORT-AU-PRINCE (AFP)

Haiti Tuesday sought material assistance from the United States as divers struggled to continue their search for hundreds of people feared drowned in the sinking of a passenger ferry.

Diplomatic sources said Haitian leaders have asked the United States for equipment and underwater salvage experts.

Patricia Tome, a U.N. spokeswoman, said Canadian divers from the U.N. mission in Haiti needed sophisticated underwater equipment to do their work.

She said that twice Tuesday, searchers used tugboats in a failed effort to drag the ferry closer to shore and ease the work of the divers who must go down 40 metres to retrieve the bodies.

Late Tuesday the divers had recovered 54 bodies from the Fierste Gonavienne (Pride of Gonave).

The latest figure brought to 79 the death toll from the shipwreck early Monday off the coast of Montrois, 75 kilometres north of the capital, officials said, revising earlier figures.

Survivors said hundreds of people were feared dead, but authorities did not give any precise figure.

Tome said the divers had peered through a porthole above the ferry's hold and saw the bodies of "about 100 victims."

Cuban Captain Eugenio Ramos, among the 62 survivors, said 260 people were aboard the ferry at the time of the disaster but others said the figure could be higher.

Mark Mackowiak, a U.S. Coast Guard spokesman in



A man reacts in distress after recognising a victim among the bodies brought to be identified as they are recovered from the ferry wreck in Montrois. More bodies have been recovered from the sunken La Fierste Gonavienne ferry, which capsized close to shore (Reuters photo).

Miami, Florida, told AFP late Tuesday that plans called for bringing the ship back to shore with a crane.

He described the operation as "very difficult" with U.N. divers unable to access the victims trapped inside the ship.

Eighteen Canadian army divers and four from the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, aided by a detail of Pakistani soldiers, comprise the search effort, Tome said.

The U.S. Coast Guard suspended its operations at the scene late Monday.

President Rene Preval, joined by most of the members of his cabinet, was at the scene of the tragedy in Montrois, comforting fearful families of those who perished.

As many as 2,000 relatives and friends of the victims were gathered in Montrois, anxiously awaiting word of their loved ones.

Preval announced a three-day national period of mourning in Haiti, to be held from Wednesday to Friday.

The U.S. ambassador to Haiti said a Coast Guard helicopter had been dispatched to the site and that the U.S. army's southern command "are studying measures of support it can give to the Haitian authorities."

The 20-metre Fierste Gonavienne, bringing passengers back from the nearby island of La Gonave in the Bay of Port-au-Prince, went down in a matter of minutes, according to Tome.

A spiral staircase prevented people on lower decks from escaping quickly. Only the passengers on the bridge and upper deck who knew how to swim had a chance to survive, witnesses said.

Among the passengers were numerous fans of the La Gonave soccer team who were on their way to watch a match with the Montrois team.

Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chretien expressed condolences to the people of Haiti Tuesday, saying: "The hearts of Canadians go out to the people of Haiti."

"I am mindful, also, that this terrible disaster is a source of deep sadness and loss within the Canadian Haitian community," Mr. Chretien said.

U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan also expressed his "sadness" and offered condolences to the bereaved.

Overcrowding on coastal ferries is a common problem in Haiti, and many have gone down in the past, including the February 17, 1993 sinking of the "Neptune" which left at least 276 dead.



Haitian President Rene Preval (center) observes body recovery operations from the sunken ferry at Montrois, with members of his government, Health Minister Rodolphe Malebranche (left) and Prime Minister Rosny Smarth (right). Mr. Preval declared three days of national mourning for the tragedy, which cost the lives of possibly more than 200 people. The ferry La Fierste Gonavienne (Pride of Gonave), carrying several hundred people, capsized on Monday (Reuters photo).

## China imprisons Tibet abbot in solitary confinement

BEIJING (R) — A Tibetan Buddhist Abbot, jailed for six years for his contacts with the exiled Dalai Lama, has been held in solitary confinement in a remote prison in southwestern China, a human rights group said Wednesday.

Chadrel Rinpoche, 58, had staged a hunger strike in his cell in the chuandong No 3 prison in Dazhu county in Sichuan province to protest against the poor conditions, the New York-based human rights group said.

"It is not known whether he is eating now, but sources have reported that his health is very poor," the group said.

The former abbot of the sprawling Tashilunpo Monastery in Xigaze in southern Tibet is the most prominent Tibetan monk now serving jail terms for what China views as their campaign for independence for the deeply devout Himalayan region.

Officials in Tibet recently told a group of visiting German parliamentarians that 200 monks were serving terms in Tibetan jails for violating national security laws — or campaigning against Chinese rule.

Mr. Chadrel Rinpoche was sentenced last April to six years in jail for conspiring to split China and for leaking state secrets after he notified Tibet's god-king the Dalai Lama of the progress of his team in their search for the reincarnation of Tibet's second holiest monk, the Panchen Lama.

The Dalai Lama's decision to announce from his home in exile in India the identity of a six-year-old boy selected as the reincarnation of the Panchen Lama sent China into a rage.

Beijing pulled that boy out of the race, arrested Mr. Chadrel Rinpoche and announced its own choice, six-year-old Gyaincain Norbu, as the 11th Panchen Lama.

China is eager to maintain a tight grip on Tibet, which has been rocked in the last decade by a string of often violent protests against Chinese rule, most of them led by Tibetan monks and nuns.

Many of those monks and nuns have been sentenced to long prison terms.

Mr. Chadrel Rinpoche was being held in solitary in a small, restricted compound within the Chauandong prison, where the late Chairman Mao Zedong incarcerated his rightist rival, Hu Feng, for 20 years. Human Rights in China said.

## Chechenya plans to build new capital called Dzhokhar

MOSCOW (AFP) — A new Chechen capital called Dzhokhar will be built 20 kilometres south of Grozny, which was largely destroyed in the 21-month war against Russian forces, Chechen President Aslan Maskhadov said Wednesday.

Mr. Maskhadov, quoted by Interfax news agency, said the idea of building a new capital was originally that of Dzhokhar Dudayev, the former Chechen independence leader after whom the city will be named.

Dudayev issued the small Muslim republic's September 1991 independence declaration and spearheaded the resistance to Russian rule but was killed in an air raid on April 21, 1996.

Speaking on Chechen television, Mr. Maskhadov said he had rejected the idea

of simply renaming Grozny "Dzhokhar," put forward by his predecessor Zelimkhan Yandarbiyev.

Mr. Maskhadov said Grozny would remain a symbolic "fortress city which withstood an unequal struggle" — a reference to the fierce street fighting which raged in the city between Russian troops, backed by aircraft and artillery, and the lightly-armed Chechen fighters.

Russian troops entered Grozny in December 1994, but met with fierce resistance and only captured it in February 1995 after intense bombardments which devastated the city centre.

The separatists defeated the Russian troops in Grozny in a lightning offensive in August 1996, and a peace deal was then signed, postponing a final decision on

the north Caucasus republic's political status for five years.

Mr. Maskhadov appealed to Chechens to help fund reconstruction of the ruined presidential palace in Grozny.

He said the authorities had signed a contract with a French company to rebuild the palace, and the first stone would be laid Saturday.

He did not explain how the Chechen authorities would get funds to build a new capital in the impoverished and devastated republic.

Russia pledged Tuesday to send \$854,000 to Chechenya this year in payment for the use of a key oil pipeline stretching from the Caspian Sea to the Novorossiisk.

## New Congo premier targets peace

KINSHASA (R) — Congo Brazzaville's newly appointed prime minister, Bernard Kolelas, said Tuesday that he would try to rally the divided nation round a peace deal.

But to do so, Brazzaville Mayor Kolelas, a former national mediator appointed by President Pascal Lissouba Monday, has to overcome opposition from one of the main players.

A spokesman for Mr. Lissouba's arch rival Denis Sassou Nguesso, told Reuters by telephone that the appointment had compromised peace talks led by Gabon's veteran President Omar Bongo.

"Mr. Kolelas is a prime minister that we don't recognise. We will not recognise his team," Isidore Mvouba, spokesman for Mr. Sassou's peace talk representatives, told Reuters by telephone from Gabon's capital Libreville.

In an interview with state-owned radio Congo, Mr. Kolelas said that peace talks in Libreville would now take into account the fact that there is a new prime minister.

"Congolese people will be aware of my programme in the coming days. But my priority will be restoring

peace to the country, returning to a normal life as well as achieving national reconciliation," he said.

"We are going to do everything so that we can get in touch with President Denis Sassou Nguesso in order to get them to take part in the government," he added.

Mr. Mvouba brushed off Mr. Kolelas's offer and said Mr. Sassou's side would not recognise his government.

"President Bongo was trying to organise a meeting in Libreville for the signing of a peace agreement. But Mr. Kolelas's appointment has compromised everything."

Mr. Mvouba indicated that the Mr. Sassou's party was still committed to a peaceful solution to the three-month standoff that began on June 5 when troops surrounded Sassou's home as part of a crackdown on private militia.

The ethnic and political clashes in the capital Brazzaville have killed hundreds if not several thousand people.

Mr. Kolelas's supporters, who have stayed out of the fighting this time, were at the heart of similar clashes that killed 2,000 people after a disputed 1993 parliamentary election.

Mr. Mvouba expressed hopes that talks would go on. "Mr. Kolelas's appointment does not change our demands. Mr. Lissouba's term in office expired on Aug 31, but he wants to remain in power by force," he said.

Mr. Sassou's side dismisses an extension of Mr. Lissouba's mandate by a constitutional council until elections as unconstitutional.

His negotiators in Libreville have demanded the post of prime minister in a broad-based government to be formed to lead the oil-producing former French colony to delayed presidential elections. Elections had been planned for July 27.

Political analysts in Brazzaville are increasingly pessimistic that the peace talks in Libreville, which kicked off in mid-June, will bear fruit. "It's getting bogged down. I don't see how things will change there," one said.

There was no report of fighting in Brazzaville Tuesday.

But state radio earlier reported fighting having spread further in northern Congo, with Sassou militia and alleged mercenary forces attacking the town of Owando.

## Poll: Republicans now clear majority in Australia

SYDNEY (AFP) — For the first time, a clear majority of voters want Australia to become a republic, according to a poll taken here after the death of Princess Diana and showing a dramatic shift of opinion.

The Australian's News-poll, consistently one of the most accurate, indicates support for a republic has jumped in three months by five points with 54 per cent now in favour of severing historic links to Britain's monarchy.

The rise in support came from those previously uncommitted with the poll showing the "don't know" falling from 21 per cent to 16 per cent. The committed monarchists remained steady on 30 per cent.

The survey comes amid intensifying debate over Australia's constitutional future in the aftermath of

Princess Diana's death and coinciding with the establishment by the government of a constitutional convention to discuss it.

But the result will provide no comfort for Australia's most visible constitutional monarchist, Prime Minister John Howard, who has promised not to stand in the way of a republic if the people want it.

He said after the funeral of Princess Diana that it was too early to know if her death would have any impact on Australian attitudes towards a republic.

The most ardent supporter of moving to a republic by 2001 was former Prime Minister Paul Keating, but many believe his advocacy lost rather than won support for the cause.

The Australian said not only had support exceeded 50 per cent for the first time

since the poll began tracking the issue almost a decade ago, but the percentage of voters strongly committed had jumped sharply, from 27 per cent to 33 per cent.

Even among supporters of Mr. Howard's conservative coalition, 43 per cent supported a republic, compared to 39 per cent against while 18 per cent were uncommitted.

In the 50-plus age group, in which support for the monarchy has traditionally been strongest, 46 per cent favoured a republic while 38 per cent were opposed.

The Australian Republican Movement chairman, Sydney lawyer Malcolm Turnbull, said a shift in support made republicans even more determined that the constitutional convention to be held early next year should be conducted constructively.

"The best result for the convention would be an agreement on the most appropriate republican model to be put to the Australian people," he said.

A row flared meantime over an accusation by the high profile Victorian state president of the ex-servicemen's Returned Services League, Bruce Ruxton, that Governor-General Sir William Deane had meddled in politics.

"What he's doing now is he's grooming himself, entering into politics, so he can be the first president of Australia," Mr. Ruxton said.

The basis of the charge was unclear and Sir William's secretary Douglas Sturkey said the governor-general was said to have been characterised so inaccurately, adding that he had not at any time entered into the republic controversy.

## Clinton challenges Senate on Weld, campaign funds

WASHINGTON (R) — President Bill Clinton challenged the Senate Tuesday to take the initiative on reforming the way political campaigns are financed and to give a fair hearing to his choice as ambassador to Mexico.

Mr. Clinton laid down an activist agenda for the autumn in a wide-ranging speech that drew enthusiastic applause from students and faculty at American University.

"Complicity is not an option," he said. He touched on every major issue facing Washington over the next three months.

Among the highlights, Mr. Clinton said he would: — Appoint a bipartisan commission to recommend ways to prevent the government's Medicare Trust fund, which pays for health care for the poor and elderly, from going bankrupt.

— Launch a campaign Wednesday to secure authority from congress to negotiate new trade agreements with emerging markets in Latin America and Asia.

— Fight to persuade Congress to approve his embattled plan for national testing of schoolchildren, saying it is "not a federal power grab" as Republican

opponents call it. Republicans are trying to bar the use of any federal funds in developing the tests.

— See through passage by Congress of sweeping tobacco legislation "that focuses first and foremost on reducing smoking among young people."

— Urged Americans to welcome Chinese President Jiang Zemin when he visits later in the fall, saying it would be easier to influence the Communist giant by having relations with Beijing instead of trying to isolate the country.

On campaign financing, Mr. Clinton said senators who oppose reform legislation to be introduced on the Senate floor later this month should be held accountable.

In years past, he said, the legislation has been subject to a blocking filibuster, and if it happens again, "we intend to see that it happens in the full glare of public light."

Mr. Clinton tried to take the offensive on campaign finance reform hours before attending two dinners for the Democratic Party raising \$550,000 from business and labor leaders, and major supporters. Some of the money is the type of large, unregulated "soft money"

contributions that Mr. Clinton says he would like to see banned.

"We have a responsibility to improve the way our political system works," Mr. Clinton said.

As a Senate committee and the justice department conduct separate investigations into alleged fundraising abuses from last year's election cycle, Mr. Clinton blamed the spiraling demand for campaign dollars on the rising "cost of access to you, the voters," meaning the cost of television and radio ads.

"One of the things we have to do is to guarantee free or reduced air time for candidates for offices, so they won't need so much more money," Mr. Clinton said.

The president also made a rare public plea that his nominee to become ambassador to Mexico, former Massachusetts Gov. William Weld, be given a fair confirmation hearing in the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

Committee Chairman Sen. Jesse Helms, a conservative North Carolina Republican who vehemently opposes Mr. Weld for the job and has vowed to never give him a hearing, rejected the overture, at least for now. He refused to put Mr. Weld's

nomination on the agenda of a special committee meeting.

In a letter to Sen. Richard Lugar, an Indiana Republican, and others who requested the meeting, Mr. Helms said he alone has authority to set the agenda of the Sept. 12 meeting. "The Weld nomination will not be on the agenda of this meeting," Mr. Helms wrote.

Mr. Clinton's appeal reflected White House admission that its behind-the-scenes lobbying campaign for Mr. Weld had failed and that it was now time to wage a more public battle.

"I believe when a president nominates someone for a job, that person's entitled to a hearing before the foreign relations committee, and I hope he gets it," Mr. Clinton said.

In an NBC Today show interview earlier Tuesday, Mr. Weld said he was making progress in getting a hearing. "A majority of the members of the (Senate Foreign Relations) Committee have stated in writing over the past couple of months that they favor a hearing. A majority of members of the United States Senate have said that they favour a hearing," he said.



A British hardliner Serb leader returns to his home after it was captured by the powerful Serb military.

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Policemen loyal to Bosnian Serb President Biljana Plavsic stand guard at the entrance of the Hotel Bosnia in Banja Luka. Bosnian Serb hardline leaders, loyal to former leader Radovan Karadzic, claimed they were being held hostage in the hotel after it was surrounded by police loyal to President Plavsic. The group included Momcilo Krajisnik, the powerful Serb member of Bosnia's inter-ethnic presidency and Prime Minister Gojko Kljickovic (Reuters photo)

## Calm returns to Bosnian Serb town after stand-off

BANJA LUKA, Bosnia-Herzegovina (AFP) — Calm returned to this Bosnian Serb town Wednesday after a tense stand-off between rivals in the Serb camp brought North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) peacekeepers directly into the fray in the Serbs' on-going power struggle.

A spokesman for the NATO-led Stabilisation Force (SFOR), which rescued a group of hardline Serbs cornered in a Banja Luka hotel Tuesday, said peacekeeping troops were patrolling the area but the town was "very calm."

"It is very calm, SFOR is patrolling," the spokesman, Mark Croxford, said. "It's our job to maintain a stable environment." The group of 78 Bosnian Serb politicians, staff, special police officers, actors and businessmen from the hardline camp were bussed out of the area in the early hours of Wednesday after spending some time at a nearby SFOR camp, Mr. Croxford said.

Among those who fled the Hotel Bosnia, running the gauntlet of an angry mob held back by police, were senior Bosnian Serb leaders Momcilo Krajisnik, the Serb member of Bosnia's tripartite presidency, and Bosnian Serb Prime Minister Gojko Kljickovic. It is also believed that Dragan Kijac, the former Bosnian Serb interior minister left the hotel but this could not be confirmed. Kijac was sacked by Biljana Plavsic, president of the Serb-run half of Bosnia, and has an arrest warrant out for him.

The western-backed Ms. Plavsic and the hardline camp have been locked in a bitter power struggle since July. The rivalry was sparked after Ms. Plavsic accused opponents loyal to her predecessor and indicted war crimes suspect



A British SFOR peacekeeper guards Bosnian Serb hardliner Ljiljana Peric as she displays three-fingers, a Serbian Orthodox salute in Banja Luka. Bosnian Serb hardline leaders, loyal to indicted war criminal Radovan Karadzic, claimed they were being held hostage in the hotel after it was surrounded by police loyal to President Biljana Plavsic (Reuters photo)

him. The western-backed Ms. Plavsic and the hardline camp have been locked in a bitter power struggle since July. The rivalry was sparked after Ms. Plavsic accused opponents loyal to her predecessor and indicted war crimes suspect

Radovan Karadzic of widespread corruption. The stand-off in Banja Luka Tuesday marked a humiliation for the Karadzic faction, who U.S. officials in Washington accused of planning a coup against Ms. Plavsic. "This is tantamount, real-

ly, to the second coup attempt by the Pale clique in recent weeks," said State Department spokesman James Foley, referring to the hardliners' mountain stronghold in the east of Bosnia.

The first attempt was in August when NATO troops found a huge illegal arms cache at the Banja Luka police headquarters.

This week's events have threatened local elections seen by the Western Community as a turning point for the war-ravaged country. International officials continue to insist the election will be held though privately many acknowledge that the chances of having the vote are diminishing.

The elections, already delayed three times, are crucial since they will decide who will wield control over the local governments throughout the country and oversee the return of refugees.

The senior Western representative in Bosnia, High Representative Carlos Westendorp, said Tuesday: "These elections have to take place."

"It is in the peace agreement and all the International Community has invested a lot of money... \$14 million" in organising the elections Saturday and Sunday, Mr. Westendorp said.

However, besides the tensions in the Serb-run half of the country, a further shadow was cast over the polls Tuesday by the announcement in the southern city of Mostar that the main Bosnian Croat party, the HDZ, had called on all Bosnian Croats to boycott the vote.

## Fighting erupts in Mazar-e-Sharif as Afghanistan's Taliban close in

KABUL (AFP) — Armed clashes erupted in the Afghan opposition bastion of Mazar-e-Sharif Wednesday as Taliban fighters advanced into the city limits with the aid of local supporters, independent sources said.

Aid workers based in the city said heavy fighting has erupted to the south and east, where commanders supporting the militia have linked up with Taliban forces.

"Soldiers on the streets say the fighting is in the outer limits of the city and against both Taliban and local commanders," an aid source said.

The sources said the local turncoat commanders were from the fellow ethnic-Pashun Hezb-e-Islami faction, who also began similar revolts to the west of the city.

Unconfirmed reports said two locally employed aid workers were killed in the fighting, senior aid sources said.

"The fighting sounds like it is constantly getting clos-

er, but we are all sitting tight and not leaving our compounds. All the roads leaving Mazar are cut," said a Western aid worker based there.

Vehicles belonging to British, German and Swiss aid groups were stolen, and the offices of the United Nations and a French relief group have been ransacked in the ensuing chaos, the aid source said.

All United Nations and Red Cross flights to the city were suspended during the day, making an evacuation of humanitarian staff impossible.

The Taliban have occupied about two thirds of the country since seizing the capital Kabul in September last year. Mazar-e-Sharif is the last major city still under opposition control.

Ethnic Uzbek warlord, Abdul Malik quit the city on Tuesday following an internal power struggle within the anti-Taliban alliance, Western sources said. The row saw armed clashes on the city's streets.

"There are no Malik

troops on the streets, it's all Hezb-e-Wahdat, Harakat-e-Islami and Masood soldiers," another aid source added.

The two Shiite factions are part of an opposition alliance with former government commander Ahmad Shah Masood fighting the Taliban militia on several fronts in Afghanistan.

In May this year, Mr. Malik briefly joined forces with the Taliban to oust ex-communist general Abdul Rashid Dostam, allowing the militia a triumphant entry into Mazar-e-Sharif. But when the deal over power-sharing broke down, Mr. Malik rejoined the opposition alliance and helped expelled the Taliban in heavy street battles, while Mr. Dostam sought refuge in Turkey.

But since the series of defections, sources in the north say relations within the alliance — particularly with the Shiite factions mostly responsible for expelling the Taliban — have been severely strained.

On Sunday, a commander

from Hezb-e-Islami switched sides and handed the Taliban control of Tashkurgan, 40 kilometres east of Mazar-e-Sharif.

The turnout allowed the Taliban to advance from an isolated northern enclave and march towards Mazar-e-Sharif.

Mazar-e-Sharif — situated about 310 kilometres north of Kabul — is also the seat of government for the beleaguered alliance, which has been battling to end the Taliban's hold on the capital.

The advances come as the United Nations special envoy for Afghanistan, Lakhdar Brahimi, arrived in India for talks on the conflict. Mr. Brahimi, an Algerian diplomat, held meetings with senior Indian officials.

New Delhi does not recognise the Taliban regime and instead extends its support to the deposed Afghan president, Burhanuddin Rabbani, who took office after the Mujahadeen overthrew a Soviet-backed Afghan government.

## Scotland poised to vote 'yes' to home rule

EDINBURGH (AFP) — Scotland is poised to vote overwhelmingly Thursday in favour of creating its own parliament for the first time in 300 years, although doubt remains whether electors will give the assembly the power to levy taxes.

If the latest opinion polls are to be believed, Edinburgh will soon have a 129-member assembly with legislative powers covering areas such as health, education, justice, culture, while the issue of whether it will have power over taxes is too close to call.

Nearly three centuries after the Treaty of Union between England and Scotland and the disappearance of the last parliament in Edinburgh in 1707, the decision will transform the British political landscape.

Since Sunday, the major political leaders have been campaigning intensively in Edinburgh, Glasgow and other major Scottish centres, after the bid to win voters was suspended following the death of Diana, Princess of Wales.

Prime Minister Tony Blair has appealed to the Scottish electorate to seize the opportunity with a double "yes" vote to the two questions which will be asked in Thursday's referendum. The first covers the creation of a parliament; the second whether the body should have tax-varying powers. Both questions must be approved by at least 50 per cent.

"There is nothing to be frightened of in this change. It is a good change," Mr. Blair insisted in an effort to overcome the lingering reservations over whether the parliament should have the power to raise or lower taxes by three per cent compared with the British rate.

Industry chiefs argue that granting control over taxes to the proposed body could reduce the competitiveness of Scottish industry.

The Scottish branch of the confederation of Scottish industry has expressed serious reservations.

For Mr. Blair, "no" to the second question would take some of the shine off his handling of one of the most significant constitutional changes in Britain in three centuries.

Mr. Blair had made devolution one of the main planks of his election campaign ahead of his landslide victory at the beginning of May.

## British royals receive support; Diana driver confirmed as drunk

LONDON (R) — Britain's royal family, reeling from criticism that it was slow to mourn and honour Princess Diana, has received support from comments by Diana's mother that there was no disagreement with the queen over her funeral.

Meanwhile in Paris, police sources said post-mortem tests on the driver in Diana's fatal crash confirmed that he had not only been three times over the legal alcohol limit but had also taken anti-depressants before setting out.

The report was a blow to those seeking to lay the blame for Diana's death at the feet of the motorcycling paparazzi photographers who were pursuing her car at high speed, and their newspaper clients.

The other target of public reproach, the royal family, received some comfort from a Mori poll in the Sun tabloid in which 73 per cent still backed them, although 39 per cent felt less favourable towards them since Diana's death.

The family had been quick to deny a potentially damaging report that, after Diana died, Queen Elizabeth had initially insisted she be given a private funeral.

Diana's mother, Frances Shand Kydd, asked that the families of Diana's sons, Prince William and Prince Harry, "be sustained in our loving hopes and prayers for these two brave boys".

In a statement, she insisted: "There is no division, nor has there been, between their paternal and maternal relations. Grief has no agen-

da or timetable." Channel Four television news said Monday that the queen had only relented under ferocious pressure from Diana's ex-husband Prince Charles.

Buckingham Palace issued a statement dismissing the story as "a ragbag of nonsensical speculation."

In Paris, a source close to the police inquiry into the crash said new tests on the body of the chauffeur, Henri Paul, showed he had not only drunk the equivalent of two aperitifs and a bottle of wine, but had also taken anti-depressants shortly before driving.

The source, who asked not to be identified, told Reuters the drugs could have boosted the debilitating effect of the alcohol.

Lawyers for Mohammad Al Fayed, father of Diana's companion Dodi Al Fayed who also died in the crash and owner of the Paris Ritz Hotel where Paul worked, have argued a reckless chase was the real cause of the crash.

Nine of the photographers who pursued Diana are being investigated for possible manslaughter charges.

William Bourdon, lawyer for SIPA agency photographer Nicolas Arsov, told Reuters after Paul's alcohol level was confirmed: "It's definitely clear now that the intoxication of the driver and the consequences — this crazy speed — was the unique and fundamental cause of this accident."

Police sources denied reports that the car had been filmed by a surveillance

camera showing it speeding at 196 kph, saying the camera was not equipped to record images or measure speed. Investigators believe the car was moving at 150 to 180 kph.

A spokesman for the Al Fayed family said he had not seen the latest blood test but certainly condemned drunken driving.

"If Mr. Paul is culpable, Mr. Mohammad Al Fayed will be the first to condemn him, because he has lost his eldest son and a very dear friend," spokesman Michael Cole told Reuters.

Thousands of people flocked to the rural Athorp estate after seeing the first pictures of Diana's resting place on an island where she used to play as a child. Diana's brother, Earl Spencer, appealed to people to stop bringing flowers in the hope of adding them to the blooms on her grave.

Even three days after Diana's funeral, thousands were still adding their flowers to a sea of bouquets at her London home, Kensington Palace.

Meanwhile officials from the royal household were getting to grips with the task of removing the estimated one million bouquets left at various London palaces.

Most of the flowers will be used as compost in the palace gardens but tens of thousands of notes, poems and messages will be collected and passed on to Diana's family.

## Australian scientists develop natural fungicides

CANBERRA (R) — Australian scientists have developed gene technology using native flora which could reduce the use of chemical sprays and improve crop yields.

The process, which combats crop fungi, is in its testing stage. While the technology is not new, the use of native Australian flora, and the genes that result, is a first.

Scientists are using derivatives from native plants to produce small proteins, or peptides, which kill or repel fungi. The peptides are inserted into the genetic material of crop plants, such as tobacco, making the plants resistant to attack from fungi.

In future, the scientists might use the peptides in a spray to replace conventional chemicals. "The beauty of this is that it is a completely Australian

technology — based on the distinctive plants which have evolved in our environment over millions of years," said Dr. John Manners, researcher in Tropical Agriculture for the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO).

Two of the peptide genes have been cloned from the Macadamia Nut which, being highly accessible, has enabled the scientists to mass produce the peptides for testing.

The researchers are also experimenting with transferring the cloned peptide genes into vulnerable crops to provide protection against fungal attacks.

Laboratory testing has so far found nine peptides to act against the five main groups of fungi known to attack grain and fruit crops. "We have transferred genes to tobacco and canola

plants experimentally," Mr. Manners said.

"Our next step will be to see how active they are against a range of fungal pests. The good news is that (the compounds) appear to be absolutely harmless to humans and animals."

"Within a very short time period, one or two years, we will know how effective this (technology) is going to be, whether it is going to be commercially viable in grain and fruit crops," he said.

"The longer term applications would involve developing these peptides as fungicides in their own right or investigating possible clinical uses."

Damage to crops in Australia from fungal attack costs growers millions of dollars each year. Citrus growers say they lose about 10 per cent of their crops each year, costing them

about \$A18 million annually.

According to John Irwin, director of the co-operative research centre for Tropical Plant Pathology (CRC), the technology has generated enormous interest in both the scientific and business worlds. CRC is a partnership between the CSIRO, universities and government departments.

CRC is seeking and meeting potential licensees from major seed companies to cover patent and further research costs in exchange for exclusive testing and use privileges.

A CRC official told Reuters that a large multinational company, which they declined to name, would enter into evaluation agreements for testing the technology. The firm had agreed to pay international patent costs during the evaluation stages.

## Search abandoned for 10 people in Norway air crash

OSLO (R) — Rescue crews looking for 10 people missing after a helicopter crashed into the sea off northern Norway two days ago said Wednesday they were calling off the official search.

A massive operation, involving up to 15 vessels, three helicopters and surveillance aircraft was launched early Monday when a Super Puma helicopter disappeared during a routine flight from Broennoyssund to the Norne Oilfield.

Two bodies were recovered later Monday along with the wreckage of the helicopter's rotor blade and fuselage.

"We have now searched a very large surface area extensively and come up with nothing," Finn Bjoernar Hansen, spokesman for the Central Rescue Centre at Bodoe, told Reuters.

"We are left to speculate that the 10 people missing are still on board the helicopter. And it is at the bottom of the sea."

Mr. Hansen said the official search, which had been hampered from the start by poor weather conditions, would be called off at 12 noon local time (1000 GMT) Wednesday.







Society on the Move

# Remove your mararah, get rid of your worries

**ALL COURTS UNDER ONE ROOF:** All justice-related needs can now be obtained in one stop: The Palace of Justice. Ten courts and offices have already moved to the new location including the offices of the Prosecutor General, Attorney General, Higher Court of Justice, Court of Cassation, Court of First Instance, Criminal Court, Amman Criminal Court, Peace Court and others. Administrative Manager of the Palace of Justice, Na'el Raqad, said that since all courts have moved to the new complex, it has become the first of its kind in the Middle East. Citizens and lawyers don't have to travel between distant courts anymore and the facilities of the new building offer practicality and comfort.

**JORDAN WINS ARCHITECT AWARD:** Jordan won top award of the Arab Ministerial Council for Housing and Construction which concluded its meetings at the Arab League offices in Cairo last Saturday. Egypt won second award. Engineer Ziad Khayat, who headed Jordan's delegation to the Architect Award panel of judges said that the Arab League had established the award to encourage the preservation of Arab and Islamic traditions in the development of construction in the Arab World. Mr. Khayat said that Jordan, Egypt and Morocco had submitted a project each to the panel which will publicly declare the results and deliver awards at a later date.

**DISPUTE AT MINISTRY GOES TO COURT:** The quarrel between Minister of Culture Qassem Abu 'Ali and Suhair Tal, the director of conferences, festivals and exhibitions at the ministry ended up with Ms. Tal taking the dispute to court. The minister had revived the dispute after making statements to the media that brought the internal affair concerning participation at a Paris conference on Jerusalem, in which Israel is to participate, out into the open, and as a result, out of house. Ms. Tal, who spoke to Al Arab Al Yom daily, challenged the minister and anyone else concerned with this issue to "drudge the whole truth supported with all the documents that touch on the care of the dispute." Is the brawl behind why her name was dropped from the list of Jordanian delegates to the upcoming University Theatrical Festival in Morocco? She tells the paper: "The minister is the primary decision-maker at the ministry, and he has the right to use his powers as he wishes. I am an employee who executes decisions and orders, but I am protected by a set of laws that preserve my rights and dignity, and protect me from power abuse."

**ARAB-ISRAELI BOOK ON SECURITY:** Abdullah Taikan and Shai Feldman have jointly published a book entitled *Bridging The Gap: A Future Security Architecture For The Middle East*. The book contains inclusive history of both Israeli and Arab security perceptions, military strategy, and a visionary, yet very specific, road map of how to build a Middle East regional security regime. The collaborative effort of the Arab and Israeli analysts to bring about the book is a notable achievement. The book is available at the American Resource Centre.

**DIPLOMATS GET DISCOUNT BUT ALSO A QUOTA:** For those who used to fly instead of drive to neighbouring countries in order to feast at Queen Alia's duty free shop, the JDS million Duty Free Markets Company is setting up outlets on the King Hussein Bridge, Sheikh Hussein Bridge, Syrian and Iraqi borders to afford every traveller an and into the country the opportunity to stock up on their daily substance requirements and buy fancy gifts at best possible prices. Launching the trend, Issa Ayoub, the general secretary of the Ministry of Transport, inaugurated on behalf of HRH Prince Faisal a duty free shop at the 7th Circle Royal Jordanian terminal last Saturday. In addition to serving the public, the duty free shops will also serve the diplomatic community of Jordan, offering them a whopping additional 12.5 per cent discount on cigarettes and alcohol and 5 per cent on all other products. Ambassadors will be allowed up to \$800 worth of goods a month and other diplomats \$400.

**NO MARARAH, NO WORRY:** To have your gall bladder (or mararah) removed in the Arab World you become socially immune from anything that could make you angry or frustrated. This is what the doctor prescribed to JTV Director Nasser Jdeh a few months back, who did not cash in on the advice until he found himself intemperately with exorcising pain Sunday before last. Whether it was a simple case of gallstone or a classical build up of JTV mineral residue, Mr. Jdeh found himself in hospital Monday and under the scalpel of a surgeon Wednesday. Unable to keep him in hospital for quality company, he was placed under house arrest till Friday, or that's what the doctor thought. Major surgery or not, 'Ala Tareq' was back at work Monday, kindly immune against tension whatever the source may be. Should we expect a change in JTV shows as a result of this? We don't know, but we advise all those who plan to blow his top off, it is virtually impossible now!

**AMERICAN CHANGES IN AMMAN:** The American Embassy is not exempt from sudden changes, at least as far as telephone numbers go. Jot down their main switch board phone number which was changed to 5920101. Those furthering their English language proficiency or starting from scratch should know that the American Language Centre has moved from the 3rd Circle in Jabal Amman to a location off the 8th circle. A map leading you to the new location is available at the American Resource Centre.

**PELLETREAU IS IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR NOW:** For those who knew Robert Pelletreau when he served at American embassies across the Middle East, including Amman, and are wondering what he's up to now after completing his service as assistant secretary of state for near eastern affairs which brought him constantly to the region alongside Warren Christopher, he has now accepted a position in the New York-based international law firm of Afridi & Angell which also has offices in Washington, London, Abu Dhabi, Dubai, Sharjah and Islamabad and associated offices in Amman, Beirut and Cairo. Pelletreau, a resident partner at the law firm, is an established expert on the Middle East and was a member of the U.S. delegation to the 1991 Madrid Middle East Peace Conference. His positions in the U.S. foreign service included Ambassador to Egypt and Bahrain. He has held numerous appointments all over the Middle East and Departments of State and Defence as well. The Jordan Times wishes him well in his new position in the private sector.

**NO MORE FORTE GRAND IN AMMAN:** Europeans who prefer staying at Meridien hotels versus the Forte Grand will be pleased to know that for the next ten years at least, the Amman-Forte Grand Hotel will be called The Amman Meridien. The hotel owned by the Housing and Hotel Services Company which is chaired by the prominent banker, Zuhair Khoury, signed an agreement with Forte/Meridien Resorts effecting the new name and a series of developments including refurbishing four of the hotel's restaurants, the lobby and furnishing two floors of rooms and training all hotel employees. Peter Cardinal of Meridien-Middle East said that the takeover from Forte to Meridien was done successfully at the Forte in Dubai and that he has over ten years experience in the hospitality industry of Jordan.



**PRINCESS MEETS JORDAN'S CHAMPIONS:** Jordan's athletes who clinched 40 medals of which 8 were bright gold at the Pan-Arab Games were Tuesday rewarded by HRH Princess Haya, the president of the Jordanian International Athletics League. The Princess lauded the athletes' achievements highlighted by the gold medal win in soccer, the most popular sport in the Arab World. Princess Haya met with the athletes and listened to issues hampering their better preparation. Athletes noted that they received little or no financial support and some like triple medalist Ayed Khawaldeh were unemployed although the Ministry of Culture and Youth had promised to find them suitable employment opportunities following their achievements at the games. Their great win at the games launched the Kingdom into celebrations with thousands of people taking to the streets in pride.

**GET IT IN ORDER BEFORE NOVEMBER:** The Ministry of Tourism issued an order to all night clubs to insure their documents are in order before Nov. 31. Five, four and three star clubs are allowed to hire foreign and local artists, while two and one star clubs are only allowed to contract with Jordanians. The strict regulations established by the Ministry of Tourism concerning the hiring of foreign artists at night clubs include submitting a list complete with names and personal information accompanied by signed contracts, acceptance of the Tax Department, Internal Revenue Department, Ministry of Interior for restricted nationalities, the director of the Amman Police Department and director of the Immigration Department before the ministry will issue an approval valid for one month from entry of the artist into the Kingdom. Once in the country, artists are not allowed to perform at other clubs during their stay and must leave the country upon expiry of the permit.

of contributing to the success of the decentralised cooperation policy, applied to the general goals of democratisation within the framework of the Euro-Med partnership concept, and will include speeches and debate on the founding principles of associations, human resource management, developing an association and external relations and partnerships. Organisations interested should contact PROMETHEUS in Paris. Tel: 331-42228861 or fax: 331-42841230.

**SEMINAR FOR ASSOCIATIONS IN AMMAN:** NICOMED, the Euro-Mediterranean Network of PROMETHEUS-Europe, a non-profit organisation run by volunteers, active throughout the European countries and which is concerned with organisational management issues, will be holding a seminar in Amman on the 20th and 21st of September. The CIVIS-MED '97 seminar will have the goal

**SCIENTIFIC NUKING, PEACEFUL ADVICE:** For the second time round, Dr. Mahmud Dweiri, the vice president of Jordan's acclaimed University of Science and Technology has been selected to the membership of the Scientific Committee of the Arab Organisation for Nuclear Energy, based in Tunisia. Dr. Dweiri said the committee functions as an advisory board on the scientific and technical aspects of peaceful nuclear energy applications. Membership to the committee is not a full time job and Dr. Dweiri will continue to fulfill the requirements of his position at the university.

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

## A starting point to discuss refugees

**Refugees into Citizens: Palestinians and the End of the Arab-Israeli Conflict**  
By Donna E. Arzi  
New York: Council on Foreign Relations Press, 1997

AS WITH all possible solutions to seemingly intractable problems, Donna Arzi's proposal for resolving the Palestinian refugee issue is based on compromise. It will therefore, by definition, leave all parties less than fully satisfied. But before the plan is dissected, combed for injustices, and trashed, its basic premise must be recognised as sound: Namely, that there will not be an end to the Arab-Israeli conflict until the refugee issue is fully resolved in a just and humane manner. As a starting point for resolution, this observation should come as a great comfort to those who have recognised that one of the weaknesses of the (currently stalled) peace process is that it immediately addresses the status of only a minority of Palestinians, i.e., those residing within the occupied territories. Arzi's proposal is viable as it means to a final resolution precisely because in it no part of the Palestinian community is marginalised, with their status "to be negotiated in the future" — a future many suspect may never arrive. Thus the more than four million Palestinian refugees will be pleased to find themselves at the top, rather than the bottom, of the agenda.

Although formal negotiations over the final status of the refugee have been on-again, off-again since the first meeting of the Multilateral Working Group on Refugee Affairs convened in 1992, there have been no agreements on even minor issues. Let

alone on questions with as potentially serious implications as the definition of the 1967 Displaced Persons. This book seeks to bypass such epistemological quagmires and instead provide a blueprint for a practical and above all fair resolution to the refugee question.

As the title suggests, "the main thesis of this book is that a permanent and viable solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict must include the granting of citizenship to Palestinian refugees throughout the region," (p. 2) wherever they choose to reside. Choice is a key aspect of the plan, and those who do not return to their homeland permanently are to be granted dual Palestinian citizenship, which would include the freedom to travel to Palestine. Granted such rights to visit their homeland, Arzi envisions that a majority of the refugees will opt for dual citizenship, with their permanent residence in neighbouring Arab states. Her careful estimates for immigration and final settlement, which account for natural growth in population, suggest large numbers of refugees can be absorbed into Lebanon, Syrian, Jordan, and Egypt as well as other Middle East states and a few outside the region, where sizeable Palestinian communities already exist. Given that these families will retain the right to visit Palestine, many will choose to permanently reside in other countries for economic and social reasons.

This is, according to Arzi, precisely what Israelis may find most appealing about the proposal. Given assurances that no massive return of Palestinians will threaten Israel's existence and security, it behooves Israel to adopt a plan that offers a complete and permanent solution to the

Arab-Israeli conflict, rather than one that continuously delays discussion of the most sensitive issues for some unscheduled "future talks." She argues that "Israel would make a pragmatic decision to exchange partial, symbolic return of Palestinians and the establishment of a Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza for the Palestinian and Arab state acceptance of less than full Palestinian return and less than the complete territory they originally sought," (p. 92).

The establishment of a Palestinian state is thus central to Arzi's plan. "If Palestinians have the right to return anywhere," she argues, "it would be to a sovereign state of Palestine," (p. 67). In the absence of such a state, "final resolution of the refugee question is highly unlikely," (p. 3). Furthermore, "Israel must not attempt, other than through the recognition of dual citizenship, to exercise jurisdiction over Jews who choose to remain in the West Bank and Gaza; similarly, the Palestinian National Authority should not attempt the same with regard to Palestinians living in Israel, Jordan, or elsewhere," (p. 116). As long as Israel refuses to grant Palestinians the right to a Palestinian state — including sovereignty over settlements in the territories, which will likely be evacuated — it cannot expect a resolution to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Arzi recognises that "no plan to resolve the refugee question will work without a comprehensive, viable, and bona fide peace that can be carried out in good faith," (p. 83) and herein lie the primary impediments to the implementation of her plan: Palestinians have little cause to trust that Israel would carry out such an agreement in good

## BOOK REVIEW

faith. Successive Israeli governments have been consistent in their failure, beginning with the Camp David Accords and continuing with Oslo, to adhere to their promises to halt the construction of new settlements in the occupied Palestinian territories. Arzi recognises this problem, noting that "since 1967, Israel has built about a dozen new, rapidly expanding neighbourhoods for about 150,000 Jewish settlers in what it has defined as East Jerusalem, by extending municipal borders and seizing private property. Although the Arab population in the city is virtually the same size, its expansion is restricted by Israeli policy. Thus, much of the housing in Arab neighbourhoods is, by necessity, 'illegal'" (p. 41). This policy of continued settlement construction, combined with Israel's failure to adhere to other agreements (such as in plan for redeployment in Hebron), give Palestinians little reason to trust that the Israeli government would carry out a comprehensive settlement on the refugee issue in "good faith."

Such a fundamental obstacle notwithstanding, Arzi's proposal must be commended for its contribution toward the realisation of a final and just solution to the plight of the millions of Palestinian refugees who have been all but forgotten in the current peace process. When Israel is finally ready to work towards a comprehensive resolution to the Arab-Israeli conflict, books such as this one may provide a starting point for negotiations that could lead to real and lasting peace.

Jillian Schwedler



# Crossroads

By Jean-Claude Elias



THE COMPUTER industry has entered a new phase. The number of innovations introduced in the last five to seven years, combined with the processing power that personal computers now offer, have built bridges to other, apparently different technologies. PCs, telecommunications, television, movies, games and music have never been so close to be fully integrated in one, unique device.

In the early nineties, "multimedia" was the hip word to say. The association of images and sound, obtained by using quality screens, sound cards and stereo speakers with a PC helped give a fresh, more versatile profile to the austere machine. Thanks to Internet and other new techniques we are well past multimedia now.

The need for a group of people, a family for example, to access the Internet and together explore its myriad of sites is making regular computer stations unfit for the job. When three or more people sit to watch a Web site, listen to the live music it may channel and enjoy eventual video clips, a comfortable TV room with its large screen certainly is more appropriate than a stiff working desk with a small 14" monitor.

The advent of the DVD, the digital versatile disk, is another reason why you would rather connect your PC to your TV. DVDs are high capacity CD-ROMs that can hold an entire feature film, in high quality digital sound and picture. They are already available in Jordan and are sold for about JD18. It is expected that recordable DVDs will soon appear that will let you save your photo albums and a variety of other sound and image data. They may also completely replace videotapes, music cassettes and audio CDs in the near future.

Most of those who use or have used Internet know that through the Web they can call a normal phone number in the United States or Canada, among other countries. Rates are much lower than what the local telephone company charges for international calls.

Many amateur musicians and most professional recording studios in Jordan are now using PC-based digital systems to record and produce high quality music, in shorter time and with less effort than with traditional analog equipment.

Till now these different faces of personal computing are not smoothly integrated. One of the reasons could be that the industry hasn't yet found the right formula. Analysts say that everybody is actually waiting for the high-definition digital TV to enter our homes before we can see a real, full-scale, friendly integration of computing, audio, video and telecommunications. It may take a few more years, but once it's here, our homes and working places will never be the same again.

# Of absurdity, law breaking, sharpness and purity

By Samer Ghaleb Bagaeen



THOUGH IT should by now no longer surprise me to find, hear and read that some of our professionals, writers and intellectuals not only imply, but even dare to instruct us to follow their orders or be damned and face the consequences on our own and at our own risk.

Some of these writers have lambasted us for mourning the loss of Diana, Princess of Wales, telling us that this was a matter of no concern to us. Even worse, they persist in telling us to rather turn our attention to the absurdities that they themselves have been churning for the last 500 years or for as long as they have been living.

They dare to write and preach to us that the issues that they have been raising for an eternity are far more important than the issues that bring us closer to, or even make us a part of the modern world in 1997.

This is not to say that all the issues that had once been raised as legitimate are no longer valid. And even though political issues are of no concern to us on this page, we can say that our political debate lacks the vigour and vision of true modern day politics; sadly, most people are still arguing and talking about the same issues that they were talking about back in the 1950s.

But surely we have moved on since then. Or have we? What we can rightly mourn at this time is the loss of a decent and constructive public debate about all this in our mainstream press and public forums.

At the same time, we can commend the debates that take place on our local electronic bulletin boards and debating forums where it is in most cases the younger generation of Jordanians showing far more awareness of modern day realities than their elder counterparts using the more conventional forums.

One good example of what gets mentioned on this electronic bulletin board is the attempt by the Aqaba Regional Authority (ARA) to change the status of Wadi Rum from a nature reserve to an area with special status. Nearly absent in the mainstream press, it is as if the transformation of Rum into a first class resort by a blessed group of individuals is not a national issue. What right does the

ARA have to fiddle with a national treasure? And what are the local MPs and the nation going to do to stop this mockery?

Let us also mention the school bus drivers who drive as if they had no school-children on board.

We can talk about the school directors and principals who push aside their principles when they hire such seemingly reckless and irresponsible drivers in the first place. We can also question some parents' blind trust in these schools and their drivers to take their children to and from the schools.

We can also comment on the entrance policy practised by some restaurants and coffee shops in Amman where two mature Jordanian males can be denied entry because they do not constitute a family, while two Jordanian teenagers (a male and a female) apparently do constitute a family, and are therefore allowed entry.

Of the world famous franchises now operating in Jordan, the Jordanian franchise is the only one out of a short list, including Amman, London and Madrid, that prevents two males from entering after 8 p.m. because they are males (there is enough here to attempt a discrimination law suit), and it is the only one out of the three that opens into the early hours of the morning to operate as a discotheque.

But maybe this is how all of these things should be if they are to take on a truly Jordanian identity: The perfect example of law breaking honoured, and purity punished.

## JTV CHANNEL 2 WEEKLY PREVIEW

Thursday, September 11, 1997

2:00	Holy Koran
2:10	Ovide And The Gang
2:30	The New Fred And Barney
3:00	America's Funniest People
3:30	He Shoots He Scores
4:30	Shingalana
5:00	French Programmes
7:00	Le Journal
7:15	French Programme
7:30	News Headlines
7:35	Trivial Pursuit
8:00	The Parenthood
8:30	Lois And Clark — Superman
9:10	Kung Fu — The Legend Continues
10:00	News In English
10:30	Movie
12:00	Step By Step
12:00	End Of T.X.

7:35	Fresh Prince Of Belair
8:00	Cinema, Cinema, Cinema
8:30	National Geographic
9:10	Renegade
10:00	News In English
10:30	One West Waikiki
11:15	Sisters
12:00	End Of T.X.

Monday, September 15, 1997

2:00	Holy Koran
2:10	The Show With The Mouse
2:30	Cowboys Of The Moo Mesa
3:00	Gillette Sports Special
3:30	Deep Water Haven
4:00	Animal Show
4:30	Ocean Girl
5:15	French Programmes
7:00	Le Journal
7:15	French Programme
7:30	News Headlines
7:35	Neighbours
8:00	Murphy Brown
8:30	Babylon 5
9:10	Highlander
10:00	News In English
10:35	Emergency Room (E.R.)
11:15	Homicide
12:00	End Of T.X.

2:00	Holy Koran
2:10	The Show With The Mouse
2:30	Cowboys Of The Moo Mesa
3:00	Gillette Sports Special
3:30	Deep Water Haven
4:00	Animal Show
4:30	Ocean Girl
5:15	French Programmes
7:00	Le Journal
7:15	French Programme
7:30	News Headlines
7:35	Neighbours
8:00	Murphy Brown
8:30	Babylon 5
9:10	Highlander
10:00	News In English
10:35	Emergency Room (E.R.)
11:15	Homicide
12:00	End Of T.X.

Tuesday, September 16, 1997

2:00	Holy Koran
2:05	Flinstones
2:30	Leo The Lion
3:00	Wishbone
3:30	French Programme
4:00	Family Matters
4:30	NBA
5:00	French Programme
7:00	Le Journal
7:15	French Programme
7:30	News Headlines
7:35	Neighbours
8:00	The Health Show
8:30	Hawkeye Of Brisco County
9:10	Clive James Postcards
10:00	News In English
10:30	Best Seller
11:15	Movie Or Daddy's Girls

2:00	Holy Koran
2:10	Sandocan
2:30	C.R.O.
3:00	Square One T.V.
3:30	Skippy
4:00	Album Show
5:00	French Programmes
7:00	Le Journal
7:30	News Headlines
7:35	Coach
8:00	Tilt 23.5
8:30	Encounter (Local Talk Show)
9:10	Nature Of Things (Documentary)
10:00	News In English
10:30	Great Defender
11:15	I Remember Nelson
12:00	End Of T.X.

Wednesday, September 17, 1997

2:00	Holy Koran
2:10	Twinkle
2:30	Muppet Show
3:00	Blue Heelers
3:30	World Of Geo
4:00	The Valley Between
4:30	Tilt
5:00	French Programme
7:00	Le Journal
7:30	News Headlines
7:35	Neighbours
8:00	The Newly Weds
8:30	Prism
9:10	Time Trax
10:00	News In English
11:15	Movie
12:00	End Of T.X.

2:00	Holy Koran
2:10	Jonny Quest
2:30	Super Dave
3:00	Secrets Of Treasure Island
3:30	Spell Binder
4:00	Munsters Today
4:30	Border Town
5:00	French Programmes
7:00	Le Journal
7:30	News Headlines
7:35	Neighbours
8:00	Soldier's Diary
8:30	Oprah Winfrey Show
9:10	Challenges
10:00	News In English
10:30	Land's End
11:15	American Gothic
12:00	End Of T.X.

Sunday, September 14, 1997

2:00	Holy Koran
2:10	Little Rosey
2:30	The Magic School Bus
3:00	Lucky Luke
3:40	Energy Express
4:00	American Chart Show
5:00	French Programmes
7:00	Le Journal
7:30	News Headlines

2:00	Holy Koran
2:10	Jonny Quest
2:30	Super Dave
3:00	Secrets Of Treasure Island
3:30	Spell Binder
4:00	Munsters Today
4:30	Border Town
5:00	French Programmes
7:00	Le Journal
7:30	News Headlines
7:35	Neighbours
8:00	Soldier's Diary
8:30	Oprah Winfrey Show
9:10	Challenges
10:00	News In English
10:30	Land's End
11:15	American Gothic
12:00	End Of T.X.

## ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

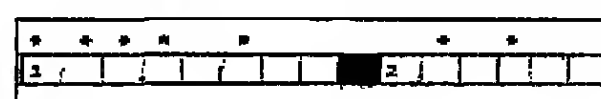
Mohammad A. Shuqair

### ORIGINS OF ARABIC NAMES

- **LAMIS**: Smooth touching or a soft woman.
- **MOUSA**: Refers to Prophet Mousa; a blade used for shaving.
- **SAMER**: One who sits up and chats at night.
- **MUTTI**: A jurist whose job is to give answers to religious issues.
- **BAKHIT**: Fortune; lucky.
- **AKEF**: One who lives in seclusion devoting himself to something or busily engaged in doing something.

rect, the letters under the stars will give the solution to the star clue.

1. Tennis star with flowery beginning.
2. Punishment is something a boxer must be able to....
- \* Women's Table Tennis Champion from 1950 to 1955.



### (B) SOMETHING IN COMMON

Which is the odd one out?



### LET'S CHAT IN ARABIC

- \*\* Don't look on the dark side of things.  
La tatasha'am.
- \*\* No call for anxiety.  
La daa'i lil-qalaq.
- \*\* Don't do that at my expense.  
La ta'fal thalek ala hisabi.
- \*\* Do something instead of looking about.  
La taqiff maktoof al-aydi.
- \*\* You can't get close to him.  
La yomkinoka at-taqarob clayhi.
- \*\* Never stand to doubt.  
La tada' ash-shak yatasarrab clayk.
- \*\* I can't get on with you anymore.  
La astati' al-insejam ma'ak.
- \*\* Don't worry, I'll remind you.  
La tosh'ghil baalak. Sawfa othakkikrok.
- \*\* I'm nobody in the affair.  
La sha'na lee fee haatha al-amr.

### JOKES

- A girl to a new friend:  
"You're really my first love."  
"I believe you, dear," he answered.  
"You're the first one to believe what I say," added the girl.

- A SCOTSMAN once wrote to the London Times:  
"If your newspaper never ceases publishing propaganda about our people's parsimony, I'll abstain reading or borrowing copies from my neighbours."

- A SON whose father is a businessman once asked him:  
"What do you mean by 'bankruptcy, dad?'"  
"Bankruptcy, son, is to keep your money in your trouser's pocket and let your creditors take your coat away."

### PUZZLES

#### (A) SPORTSTARS

HERE is a test of your sporting knowledge. Write the answers to clues 1 and 2 into the diagram. If they are cor-

### BANK OF KNOWLEDGE

1. Who was the first man to drive over 400 m.p.h.?
2. What does NASCAR stand for?
3. Name the "Robin Goodfellow" imp in Shakespeare's Midsummer Night's Dream.
4. Match the flick with its geographic setting:
 

1. Bon Voyage, Charlie Brown	(a) Vienna
2. Green Dolphin Street	(b) Honolulu
3. Giant	(c) France
4. From Here to Eternity	(d) Texas
5. The Third Man	(e) New Zealand



## Norwegian actress turns auteur

LONDON (AP) — For two decades or more, Liv Ullmann was Ingmar Bergman's partner on screen and off, the luminous centre of Persona, Scenes From A Marriage, Autumn Sonata and the harrowing Face To Face.

Now 58, the twice Oscar-nominated actress prefers working behind the camera. Although she and Bergman ended a personal liaison years ago, their professional one continues: The reclusive Swedish filmmaker wrote Ullmann's third feature film, Private Confessions, which had an acclaimed European premiere during the Cannes Festival in May.

"I more or less decided I wouldn't be an actor if I could make my living as a film director," Ullmann said by telephone from her home in Oslo. (She keeps a second, smaller, apartment in

New York, where she was a Broadway stage regular during the 1970s.)

For her, satisfaction lies in perpetuating a rich tradition of the Scandinavian cinema of the '60s and '70s.

"We had a great time," she said, reflecting on an almost communal repertory ensemble that included Bergman, cameraman Sven Nykvist — her colleague on Private Confessions.

"I'm glad I had an opportunity to do my craft that way," she said. "It was one of the few places where people could still meet and learn and be together."

It was happier time, then, than filming the notorious Hollywood bomb *Lost Horizon*?

Ullmann laughed. "I put down a few studios with whatever horrible films I did in Hollywood. But I knew I could just go back and do *Scenes From A*

*Marriage*, living on an island with outdoor toilets, and I thought, God, am I privileged."

She spoke of absorbing the Bergman manner whereby characters' interior lives carry the same intensity and charge that audiences now get from special effects. Her directing efforts — Sophie, Kristin Lavransdatter and now *Private Confessions*, all bear the master's meditative imprint.

"I happen to think we are not like TV, where you smile while talking about the latest plane accident," she said.

Nonetheless, a 3 1/2-hour version of *Private Confessions* was shown on Scandinavian television last Christmas. And several great Bergman films also exist in longer, fuller TV versions.

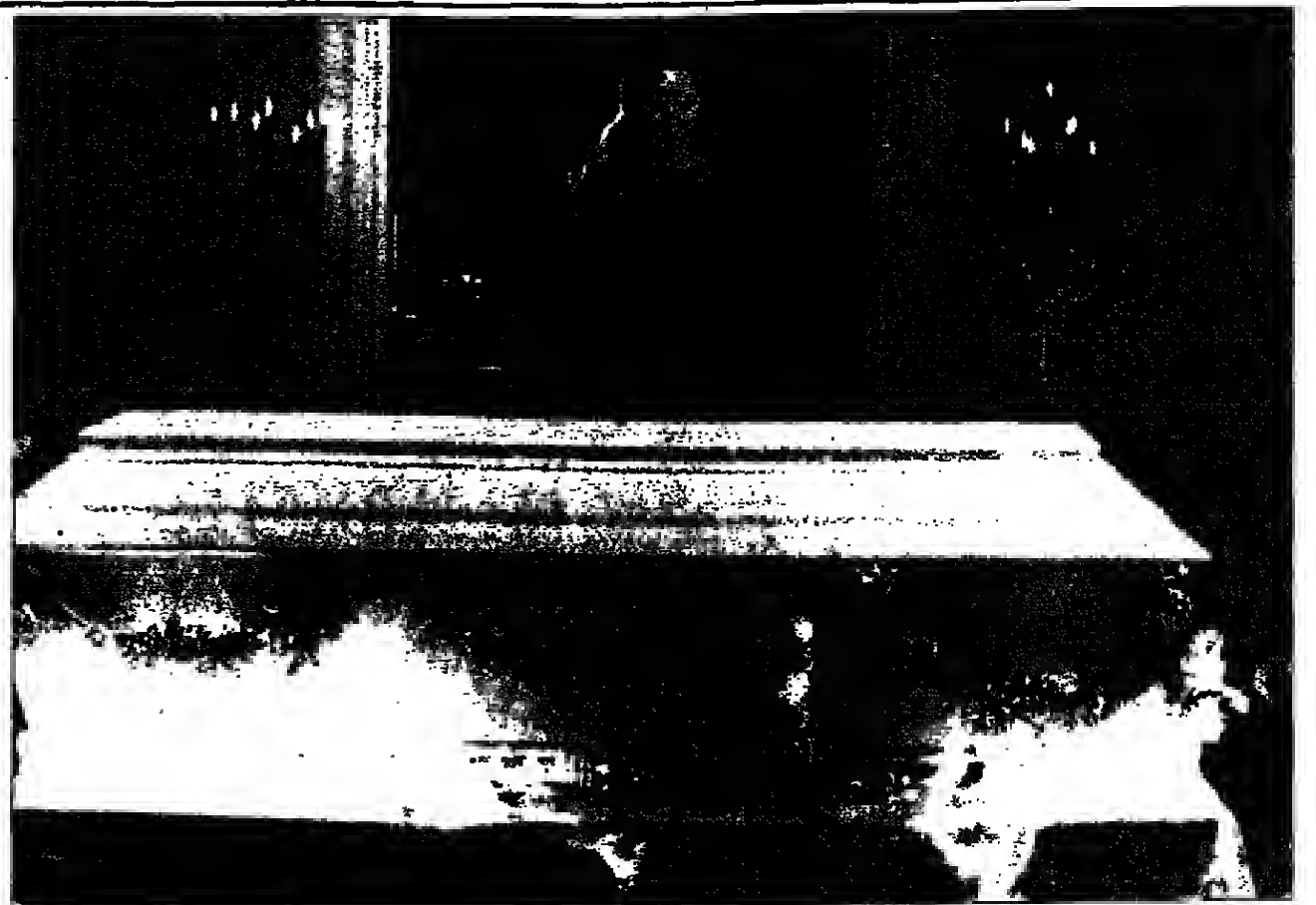
Too many movies are obsessed with computers,

data and special effects at the expense of recognisable human behaviour, Ullmann said.

"What the Americans are doing is making films about data and cyberspace, about cartoons and crime and violence, and the more expensive an actor is, the more they want him," she said.

But, "I don't know people who travel through space and do all those things. Nowadays, a film is modern if it talks about who we are — about relationships and deepest thoughts, why people love and why they hate," all the more reason to champion a personal cinema.

"In this age of data, if we don't learn more about each other's cultures, where we come from, what makes us breathe and long and dream, we will be absolutely lost, isolated."



Liv Ullmann in Ingmar Bergman's film *Face To Face*

## Canada's Cirque goes on screen with adult fable

By Lien Van Der Leij  
Reuter

AMSTERDAM — Canada's internationally acclaimed Cirque Du Soleil is up to its subversive tricks again — turning its circus show into a film, shooting a fairy tale meant for adults, getting workaday extras to express their personalities.

Currently filming at a string of off-beat locations in Amsterdam and Berlin, *Alegria* is a feature-length fable loosely inspired by the

company's circus show of the same name which has drawn capacity audiences around the United States, Asia and Europe.

Initial rushes promise that the Cirque's anarchic-Bohemian and often outrageous tradition will this time spawn a visually lush parable with touches of popular musical, almost as if Britain's Peter Greenaway had been asked to direct the musical *Oliver*.

"It's a simple little love story but with a big sub-

text," says writer-producer Rudy Barichello. "It deals with the exploitation of the world's children and political disillusionment."

"The film may look innocent, but it has several levels," says Franco Dragone, the film's director and creator of the stage show. "It's a film which is made for adults but can be seen by children."

"I don't only want to shoot a show...I want to touch people to make them aware of atrocities like the 250

million children working under terrible conditions."

Dragone looks to the individual within the actor and makes a point of getting all his players, including extras, to put their own personalities into their role.

"There is an overall framework, but within that things are fluid," he explains as he reviews a motley crew of beggars, tramps, dwarves and dancers for the "Cauldron" or market place scenes, filmed on location at Amsterdam's derelict Olymp-

pic stadium.

A tall African American in traditional dress is encouraged to dance in his efforts to sell lengths of bright material, while an old man in a loincloth and a ferociously tattooed Hell's Angel leave the viewer wondering where on earth the film is set.

Symbol of the world and worldly disillusionment, the cauldron is flanked by the stifling *Cafe L'Opera*, where artists falter on hard times drink their days away, and the red light district where

prostitutes perch like birds in cages displaying themselves to a jaded public.

Despite having cost only \$300,000 just under a tenth of the film's estimated total budget, the other worldly sets are naggingly unsettling to an adult viewer.

They are the work of Dutch designer Ben Van Os, a prize-winning veteran of eight Peter Greenaway movies, including *Drowning By Numbers*, and *Prospero's Books*, and are intended to counterpoint the simple moral

message of the storyline. Inspired by the *Tahleux Vivants*, which make up the stage show, the film follows the fortunes of Frac, played by Reo Bazinet.

A street mime artist who has lost his love for performing, Frac is about to throw himself under a train when he meets Giulietta, a circus performer whose troupe is aboard the train.

Together they fight to free Frac's friend Momo from the clutches of Marcello, who enslaves children to

work for him in a squalid factory, and to overcome the opposition of Giulietta's father to their love.

"The plot is individual to the film, but the universe of the Cirque Du Soleil is the canvas against which it is played out," says Dragone.

"You could describe it as a rallying cry. (to say) that there is a future...*Alegria* is a fable for our times. You can always do something to change ugliness."

The film is due to be released next spring.

## Performers fight to bring movies to the screen

By John Horn  
The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Robert Duvall, Michelle Pfeiffer, Johnny Depp and Gary Oldman never have performed in a movie together, but they're all part of a new Hollywood ensemble: High-profile actors who by hook or by crook personally shepherd difficult movies to the screen.

Rejected by virtually everybody in town, Duvall spent \$5 million of his own money to make *The Apostle*, premiering at the Toronto International Film Festival. Pfeiffer's production company purchased film rights to Jane Smiley's *A Thousand Acres* and then helped guide the project through years of dead-ends and delays. It opens on Sept. 19.

Depp and Oldman made their writing-directing debuts in *The Brave* and *Nil By Mouth*, respectively. Depp's film, which does not have a distribution date, is set against the murky world of snuff films. Oldman's effort, due next February, is a loosely autobiographical tale about an alcoholic who beats his pregnant wife. Both films were shown at this year's Cannes Film Festival.

Duvall searched 13 fruitless years for backing for *The Apostle*, a story written by Duvall, who casted himself as a devout preacher whose wife is caught in an affair.

"Everybody said, 'well, it's a good idea, but we don't know if it's commercial,'" Duvall says of his hunt for financing. "I knocked on many doors. I had people trying to raise money for me. But it didn't work out." Even his talent agents promised to find backers. "But it was all hot-air talk," he says.

Duvall's accountant finally suggested that the Academy Award-winning actor finance the film from the actor's savings. "I guess my CPA green-lit the film," Duvall says with a laugh. "But it definitely would not have got made if I didn't spend my own money."

With his own money on the line, Duvall also decided to direct *The Apostle*. Billy Bob Thornton, Farrah Fawcett



Michelle Pfeiffer talks to the press

and Miranda Richardson joined the cast.

"I thought I would have to put up a full-length mirror so I could yell at the director," Duvall says of simultaneously working in front of and behind the camera. "But I didn't have to do that. We even finished one day ahead of schedule. It's a movie I'm proud of."

In a delicious twist, many of the people who said no to Duvall are now clamouring to see the movie and bid on its distribution rights. Duvall says he has received more than two-dozen calls from distributors. The movie had its world premiere on Sept. 6.

For all her star power, Pfeiffer's passion for *A Thousand Acres* was first met with equal indifference. The Pulitzer Prize-winning novel chronicles three sisters on an Iowa farm as their lives are transformed by a vengeful patriarch and allegations of incest.

"There was some concern that the movie wouldn't be commercial — but the book is what it is," says Pfeiffer, who stars in the film opposite Jessica Lange and Jason Robards. "The strength of

this story is how deeply provocative it is. If you make the movie, you have to go all the way with it."

Pfeiffer and her producing partner, Kate Guinzburg, first read *A Thousand Acres* as a manuscript, before its 1991 publication. Pfeiffer and Lange were looking for a movie to make together, and the book was a perfect fit. The two performers decided to produce the movie jointly, and both committed to star.

The Hollywood suits still wouldn't budge.

"We were turned down by every studio," Guinzburg says. "They were afraid to take a chance on darker material — they were scared." Adds Pfeiffer: "I thought in my heart the movie would never get made."

Pfeiffer persisted. "I really can't complain about the roles I'm offered. I've been pretty satisfied," Pfeiffer says.

"But it is rare that you get to work with women, and rarer still that the whole relationships in a movie are based on women. This kind of material doesn't come across the desk every day. And it would just break my heart if I didn't play this role. I

can't say that about too many roles."

Coordinating Pfeiffer and Lange's schedules with Director Jocelyn Moorhouse's proved nearly impossible. Then, five years after Pfeiffer bought rights to the book, a brief window opened. Good news, except Pfeiffer was coming off *One Fine Day* and *Up Close and Personal* and desperately wanted a break.

"I was exhausted," she says. "But I just knew if I pushed it off, the movie would never get made. I was really scraping the bottom of the barrel. I used every ounce of energy I had. And I haven't done anything since."

Although *A Thousand Acres* will be distributed by the Walt Disney Co., it was made without studio money. The funds came from independent producers Beacon Pictures and Propaganda films.

Pfeiffer says the experi-

ence, while draining, has been deeply rewarding. "It certainly is a bigger sense of accomplishment, particularly when it's something you believe in."

Like Duvall, both Depp and Oldman directed themselves, with dramatically different results. Oldman's *Nil By Mouth* attracted positive reviews at Cannes and was picked up by Sony Pictures Classics, who plan to release it early next year.

People who have seen Depp's *The Brave* say the movie is unwatchable, not even rescued by a Marlon Brando Cameo as a snuff film producer. One acquisitions executive compares it to the intentionally dreadful *Springtime For Hitler* musical from 1967's *The Producers*. Daily Variety's review was similarly negative, calling *The Brave* a "turgid and unbelievable neo-Western" and "strikingly preposterous."

### THOUGHT FOR THIS WEEK

I believe in the discipline of silence and can talk for hours about it.

— George Bernard Shaw, Irish-born playwright (1856-1950)

## Women shut out again from country music's highest honour

NASHVILLE, Tennessee (AP) — This month, a man will climb the stairs to the stage at the Grand Ole Opry and claim the Country Music Association's

(CMA) Entertainer of the Year Award, country music's most prestigious honour.

Make that two men if the Duo Brooks and Dunn repeat their 1996 victory.

There's no chance a woman will take that walk on Sept. 24. For the second straight year, none is nominated.

Not one of country's top-selling female singers — Reba McEntire, Shania Twain, Leann Rimes, Deana Carter, Trisha Yearwood or Patty Loveless — made the grade with industry voters.

"It is frustrating to see it over and over again," says singer Kathy Mattea, an Entertainer of the Year nominee in 1990. "The women that win the category have to do so much for so long. It's hard to imagine a man having to do as much."

In the 30-year history of the award, women have won five times: Loretta Lynn in 1972; Dolly Parton, 1978; Barbara Mandrell, 1980 and '81; and McEntire, 1986.

The only female nominees of the 1990s have been Mattea and McEntire, even though many of country music's signature records of the decade were performed by women: Blue by Rimes, Carter's *Strawberry Wine*, Believe Me Baby (I Lied) by Yearwood, and Patty Loveless' *You Don't Even Know Who I Am*.

"Women have been making very exciting music and having tremendous sales suc-

cess," says David Ross, who publishes the country music trade

magazine *Music Row*. "I think it's fair to say the ratio vs men in terms of sales and radio airplay is very evenly distributed now," he says.

Women are represented elsewhere on this year's CMA ballot.

"Look at the Horizon Award, which picks performers with the brightest futures. There are four women and one man nominated," CMA spokeswoman Teresa George notes.

The Horizon nominees are Carter, Rimes, Terri Clark and Lee Ann Womack, with Trace Adkins the sole man.

Two of three Country Music Hall of Fame inductees this year are women: Singer Brenda Lee and songwriter Cindy Walker.

"Overall, this year there are 18 females nominated, and they also outnumber the guys in tough categories like Album of the Year," George says.

Still, the nominees for the top award are the same manly crowd as 1996: Brooks and Dunn, Garth Brooks, Vince Gill, Alan Jackson and George Strait.

The 7,000 industry workers who nominate and vote for Entertainer of the Year are told to judge on the following criteria:

"This award is for the act displaying the greatest competence in all aspects of the entertainment field. Voters should give consideration not only to recorded performance, but also to the in-person performance, staging, public acceptance, attitude, leadership, and overall contribution to the country music image."

Females tend to fall short with voters for performance, says Holly Gleason, the publicist for Loveless,

Collin Raye and other country singers.

"It comes down to headlining status. It comes down to the perception of being important to the format," she says. "Selling records is one thing. Putting butts in seats is another. I think that's really become how people gauge it. How many true women headliners are there out there?"

Some of country's biggest female success stories don't extend yet to live shows.

Twain sold millions of her *The Woman In Me* CD without touring, and Rimes has spent most of 1997 working as an opening act for Jackson and Gill. Even McEntire, renowned for her flashy live act, toured on a package show with Brooks and Dunn this year.

"It seems to be harder for women to hit the big headline status," Mattea says. "Whether that is something that is manufactured by the industry, it's hard to be objective about."

"It's not blatant discrimination. I think it's a more subtle psychological barrier. ... It takes years to unlearn ideas that are imposed on us."

It may be that voters just aren't convinced relative newcomers like Rimes and Carter are here to stay. Of the five 1997 Entertainer of the Year nominees, Brooks and Dunn is the newest act, with its first chart record in 1991.

"There's a time lag between getting moving and that perception getting out there," Ross says. "People tend to vote for familiar names."



# Norway's sick health sector is a factor in elections

By Rolf Soderlund  
Reuter

OSLO — When Norwegians go to the polls in the Sept. 15 election, their experiences with the country's health care system could play a role in deciding how they vote.

Oil-rich Norway prides itself with a cradle-to-grave welfare system, but shortcomings in its state-run health sector and care for the elderly have become major issues ahead of the election.

The Labour minority government and the opposition right and left of centre are all campaigning for a more efficient health system and ways to ease heavy-handed bureaucracy.

While most countries have difficulties financing their public health care, Norway has run up a budget surplus for three consecutive years thanks to the offshore petroleum sector.

The government, which is fighting an uphill battle in opinion polls, has the unpopular task of blocking attempts by the opposition to increase public spending.

A tight fiscal policy may keep inflation at bay, but the opposition and people in the street have difficulties seeing why the budget surplus is not spent on improving health care.

Suppressing the temptation to go on a spending spree, the government is putting the surplus in the state petroleum fund for investment in foreign securities. The fund is expected to hold more than 100 billion crowns (\$13.4 billion) by the end of the year.

Vigdis Borge, 53, says she will vote for the tiny Pensioners' Party — which is not represented in parliament — because "the pensioners have

learned what we need in Norway."

"I have seen most of the world so I can verify how poor the health sector in Norway is," said Ms. Borge, a former travel agency executive who retired early 14 years ago with arthritis. "I have never had problems with health care anywhere but in Norway."

She recently returned from treatment for her rheumatism in Igalo, Montenegro — Norway could not offer similar treatment — because she suffered a heart attack.

"Everything functioned there in former Yugoslavia. I spent two weeks in a military hospital and another week and a half in a civilian hospital."

"But after you are flown back to Norway and carried into your own home you are left on your own. You run into a wall in the Norwegian health sector," she told Reuters. "We are a developing country when it comes to health care. Patients are treated like parcels, not as human beings."

## System better than its reputation

Ingeborg Traaholt, secretary general of the Association of Norwegian Patients, an independent watchdog on patients' rights, said the health care system was better than its reputation.

"Norway does not have poor health care," she said. "But Norwegians have high-quality expectations of the health services and rightly so. There is no reason why we could not have the best system in the world. I don't know if we need more money for the health sector, but if this is the case I believe we are willing to pay for it."

Norway spent 7.3 per cent of gross domestic

product on the health sector in 1994, the latest year for which statistics are available.

"We should keep the public health care system, but we don't see enough proposals for making life easier for patients. They cannot measure the quality of health care in this country because they have nothing to compare with. That is a scandal."

"You get to go to the hospital where you live, and chances are that you will not be referred to another hospital that perhaps could have provided better care," she said.

The government recently introduced proposals to improve the health services, including granting patients the right to seek a second opinion at a hospital outside their county.

The Health Ministry defended the public health system, which is funded by taxes, and criticised private health care in other countries such as the United States.

"The Norwegian people do not want their wallet, connections or other external circumstances to decide if they can get well," the ministry said.

## Long waiting lists, shortage of doctors

Most politicians agree, however, that the country's system of waiting lists for patients needs more work.

All who make an appointment for an examination or treatment at a hospital — with the exception of those in immediate need of care — are placed on the waiting list.

While the waiting list may be a useful tool for the authorities in checking hospital capacity, many patients find it bureaucratic and unfair and want to jump the queue.

Official statistics show

nearly 300,000 patients were on various waiting lists on April 30, the latest figure available.

Patients who are seriously ill are guaranteed treatment within six months, but thousands find themselves still waiting for treatment after the deadline has expired.

The welfare system covers treatment abroad if Norwegian hospitals lack the competence to cure an illness. Norway, a country of 4.3 million, has a shortage of medical doctors.

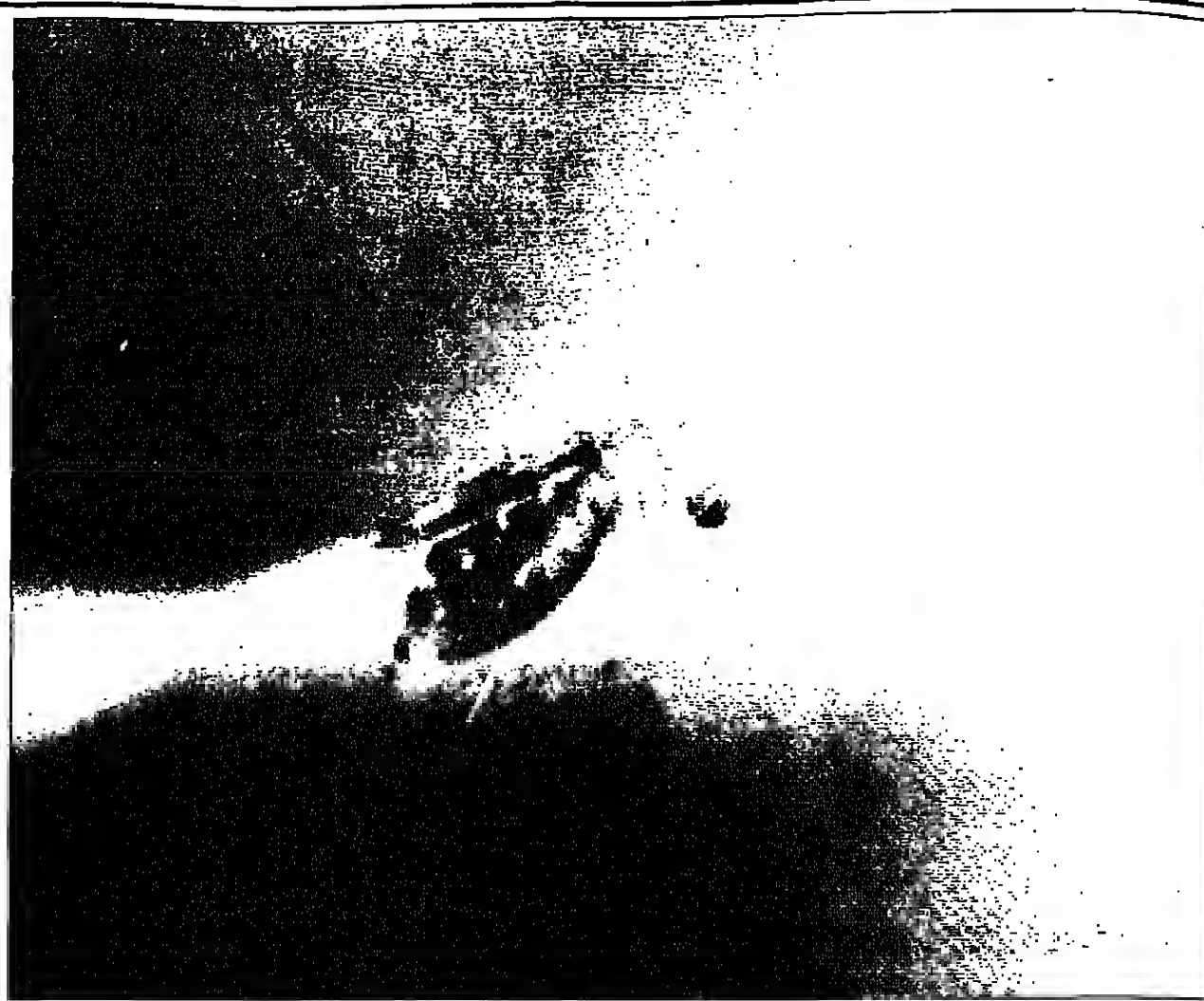
However, some 1,400 foreign doctors have shown interest in moving to Norway for a period of time following an initiative by the Norwegian Labour Directorate, which advertised for help in Germany, Austria, France and other countries.

Ragnhild Dalgard, head nurse of the medical infection ward at Oslo's Ullevaal Hospital, Norway's largest, said: "We have never done more in terms of medical care, but the queues to the hospitals have never been longer."

"Our population has grown older. I think we have a good health sector. When people are really ill they get care, but the care for the old who built our country should be improved," Ms. Dalgard said.

She said her ward, which has 240 beds, has patients sleeping in corridors.

"We often have to put 30 patients in the corridors. This is because the care for pensioners is insufficient. Elderly patients are waiting for a place in a home care centre."



Shown in this file picture is a blood-fed *Culex nigripalpus* mosquito. A crop duster sprayed about 8,000 acres (3,238 hectares) of mosquito-infested land around Orlando's theme parks and tourist attractions on Aug 28 in Florida's fight to stem an outbreak of deadly mosquito-borne encephalitis. So far, no humans have tested positive for the disease. But the virus has turned up in test animals used to determine whether local populations of mosquitoes are carriers. Eight Florida counties have reported finding the virus and the outbreak in the heart of one of the world's busiest vacation destinations concerns the \$38-billion-a-year tourist industry (Reuter photo)

## Florida encephalitis fight goes airborne

By Brad Liston  
Reuter

ORLANDO, Florida — A crop duster sprayed about 8,000 acres of mosquito-infested land around Orlando's theme parks and tourist attractions in Florida's fight to stem an outbreak of deadly mosquito-borne encephalitis.

So far, no humans have tested positive for the disease. But the virus has turned up in test animals used to determine whether local populations of mosquitoes are carriers.

Eight Florida counties have reported finding the virus and the outbreak in the heart of one of the world's busiest vacation destinations concerns the \$38-billion-a-year tourist industry.

With each passing day, the public seems to be taking the threat more seriously. "We can't stock enough mosquito repellent," said Joyce Allen, a drugstore clerk on tourist-packed international drive in Orlando. "On Monday, that wasn't the case. Now we've

got people saying, 'if you don't have mosquito repellent, do you have mosquito netting, long sleeve shirts, anything.'"

Poolside at Walt Disney World's Grand Floridian Hotel, Dieter Schmidt of Frankfurt, Germany, said his first reaction to a warning issued by Disney was alarm.

"We find this letter in our room and it says that you should not go outside at night or you die," he said. "Some vacation, huh?"

But Schmidt said he now understands the resort was doing no more than urging common-sense precaution. "We went to the nightclubs last night," said his wife, Yvonne Schmidt. "We bought the mosquito spray, you know, and wore all our clothes and we didn't see any insects at all. Perfectly safe."

People may be safer at Orlando's resorts than in its residential neighbourhoods, said Bill Breaud, manager of Orange County's Mosquito Control Unit. "If you're walking down Main

Street in the Magic Kingdom, you're not going to be bit by a mosquito," he said.

There was a greater risk after dark at golf courses, swimming pools and wooded areas like Disney's Fort Wilderness. Disney has made nighttime activities in those areas off-limits since last Tuesday. Much of central Florida's entertainment industry followed suit.

Encephalitis is not transmitted from human to human, according to health authorities. Female mosquitoes looking for an evening blood meal, are the only known carriers.

The virus causes a sudden inflammation of the brain, with symptoms turning up five to 15 days after exposure. In mild cases, symptoms can include fever, headaches and a stiff neck. Severe cases bring on seizures, double vision, behavioural abnormalities and drowsiness that leads to coma.

The elderly and very young are at greatest risk, health officials said. "I don't think anyone can

say this isn't serious," said Dr. Heidar Heshmati of neighbouring Brevard County, home of the Kennedy Space Centre, where beaches and hotels were expected to fill over the Labour Day weekend.

Eleven people died in a 1990 outbreak of the disease. Although two suspected cases in his county turned out to be negative, Mr. Heshmati warned that people headed to the beach needed to be inside by dusk, or at least wear long clothing and use mosquito repellent.

About 100 blood samples had been sent from across the state to a lab for testing but so far none had proved positive for encephalitis. "Ahh, it's all hysteria," said Peter Long, a tourist from London, who said he would wear the same attire, shorts, sandals and sleeveless shirt, "morning, noon and night if it's 90 degrees Fahrenheit. These are bleeding mosquitoes, not vampires."

## Dieters need not shun beef — Australian study

SYDNEY (R) — Women who exclude all red meat from their diets to lose weight fare no better than women who continue to eat moderate amounts of lean beef, according to an Australian study.

The study, by Melbourne's Baker Medical Research Institute, was jointly funded by the National Heart Foundation and an industry body, the Meat Research Corp.

It showed that overweight women, mainly between 30 and 45 years of age, achieved the same weight reduction, about nine per cent of initial body weight in 16 weeks, irrespective of whether their diets included lean beef or soyabean.

The study follows con-

cern in Australia's red meat industry over falling sales as red meat loses favour with consumers. Its findings were released by the meat industry's main statutory authority the Australian Meat and Livestock Corp (AMLC).

Researchers led by the institute's Professor Paul Nestel set out to establish that eating lean beef within a calorie-controlled diet does not interfere with weight loss, the AMLC said.

After a study of 36 overweight women, half of whom continued to eat beef, Prof. Nestel concluded that reducing energy intake was the key and staple foods like beef need not be excluded. Other benefits such as

blood pressure and cholesterol reductions and improvements in arterial health were also equal in both groups of women studied.

Prof. Nestel said the findings were important: "The more a weight-loss eating plan resembles a normal diet, the more likely it is to succeed."

The researchers said that women often followed fad diets or misleading dietary advice and one piece of "misinformation" was that staple foods like red meat should be cut out.

In the Australian study, two groups of 18 obese women were put on separate diets over a 16-week period. The energy and fat content of both groups were similar, but one group

included 150 grammes of lean red meat at least five times a week. The other group did not eat red meat at all, substituting soyabean, although the women still ate chicken or fish at other meals.

Both groups achieved an average nine per cent reduction in body weight over the 16 weeks, with the lean beef group losing an average 7.8 kilograms and the "semi-vegetarian" group an average 7.6 kilograms.

The two groups also achieved a 12-per cent reduction in plasma cholesterol levels, a seven-per cent reduction in blood pressure and equal reductions in the elasticity of arteries, the AMLC said in a statement.

## U.S. study links stomach cancer to smoking

WASHINGTON (R) — More than 40 per cent of the cases of stomach and esophageal cancer can be blamed on smoking, and quitting does not cut the risk for 30 years, U.S. researchers reported.

Marilee Gammon and colleagues at the Columbia University School of Public Health said the rates of cancers of the stomach and esophagus, which leak into the stomach, had risen steeply in the United States and Europe in recent years. They said white males were especially prone.

Reporting in the journal of the National Cancer Institute, Gammon's group said smoking was a clear

risk factor for two different kinds of cancer — adenocarcinoma and squamous cell cancer.

They studied more than 1,000 people aged 30 to 70 who had been diagnosed with cancer of the esophagus or stomach and compared them to 600 people who did not have cancer.

"They carefully questioned them about alcohol or tobacco use, diet, medication and other factors."

They found the risk of adenocarcinoma was doubled among current and ex-smokers. The higher risk lasted for up to 30 years after someone stopped smoking, they added.

## ANSWERS PUZZLES

### (A) SPORTSTARS

1. ROSEWALL.
2. ENDURE.
3. ROSEANU.

### (B) SOMETHING IN COMMON

— Penknife is the only one not beginning with C

### BANK OF KNOWLEDGE

1. John R. Cobb.
2. National Association for Stock Car Auto Racing.
3. Puck.
4. 1. C
5. 2. D
6. 3. E
7. 4. B
8. 5. A

## WEEKEND CROSSWORD

### SPORTING CHANCES

By Gayle Waters Deau

ACROSS

1. Sauce for spaghetti
6. Aircraft engine
11. Blatant ingredient
16. Motionless
20. Preface
21. Shanty
22. River in the Congo
23. Follow
24. Cane syndrome
25. Crown down
26. Adjuster
27. Romance
28. Plaque
29. Map feature
30. TV ad

DOWN

1. Journal
2. Balance
3. River
4. Rich Williams
5. Girth
6. Put back to work
7. Lay a case in
8. Pail
9. Laps
10. Pail
11. Pail
12. Pail
13. Pail
14. Pail
15. Pail
16. Pail
17. Pail
18. Pail
19. Pail
20. Pail
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29. Pail
30. Pail

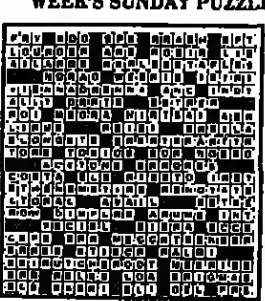
### Diagramless 19x19

By Harold B. Counts

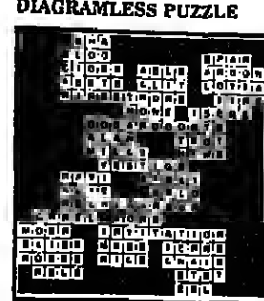
ACROSS

1. Spread contacts
6. Decade from 1920
9. Pail
10. Smallest of the
11. Newfound?
12. Pail
13. Pail
14. Pail
15. Pail
16. Pail
17. Pail
18. Pail
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20. Pail
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22. Pail
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30. Pail

### SOLUTION OF LAST WEEK'S SUNDAY PUZZLE



### SOLUTION OF LAST WEEK'S DIAGRAMLESS PUZZLE



### Last Week's Cryptograms

1. New chef cooked up a meal of turnips, brussels sprouts, garlic, leeks and lamb for highbrow restaurant.

2. Judge and jury award young bigamist brutal punishment: multiple mothers-in-law for life.

3. Not much will produce more irritation than mail with addressee shows as "occupant."

4. Billiard player thinks impeded table mode him miser easy bank shot.

### CRYPTOGRAMS

1. TDQFC DHJ JDLBFCZC ZSAPBRRJ

DLQBCDMFK XT YXSCK DQ D YWB MDCQ

TXC TDNDQWA MLBWVWQWA TDRK XHV.

— By Karl Ireland

2. UP SMUT'E LNREXN, XUDAQE XQFQA

BUTPRPZ QNNB HXQNNMS PLUMCB LT

CLPPFS-QA XQNNH LN DMBBZ OPQN

BMUTN.

— By Rita Salento

3. BUURLETL HCU B TEKA MBUBYA ET LCCT

CUYAU EF B MUCKAPFRT MUCKAPFRT.

— By Ed Buddicom

4. FWSURUWO XYNAT DOBLWORD MUG

WNTUDORHC XUBM MUG SAWFILNC

DOBLWORD.

— By Frank N. Stein



## Albright starts rescue mission of peace with pro-Israeli statement

(Continued from page 1)

to making further troop withdrawals from the West Bank.

Asked about chances of the success of her mission, she said: "I am a realist." "I take every day as a test," she said. "Making a difference as secretary of state is something that is on my mind all the time. I do feel it's important, and I would like very much to make some difference."

Upon arrival in Israel early Wednesday, Ms. Albright was met by Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy who had threatened to resign if Mr. Netanyahu's government abandoned the peace process.

"It is very moving to see the bravery of the people here. You can see in their eyes that they are ready for a new life...." Ms. Albright said as she visited Hadasah Mount Scopus hospi-

tal. Israelis and Palestinians said they planned to hand Ms. Albright documents listing what they expect of the other side, and complaining about violations of the peace agreement.

In a four-page list, Israel demanded that the Palestinians arrest large numbers of Hamas activists, disarm the group and cut off funding. But Palestinian officials say the kind of mass crackdown demand-

ed by Israel would lead to civil war.

Israel also said the Palestinians must reduce their police force from 35,000 to 24,000, as stipulated in the agreement, dismiss the police chief suspected of incitement against Israel and agree to Israeli and U.S. monitoring to ensure compliance. But the PNA rejected the list of Israeli demands as "blackmail" designed to force political concessions.

The 29-page Palestinian document said Israel is building 19,000 settlement units and has been revoking Palestinian residency rights in Jerusalem as part of a policy to increase the Jewish population of the disputed city.

Israel's closure of the West Bank and Israeli demolitions of Palestinian homes constitute collective punishment, the document said.

## UNRWA to cancel part of austerity measures

(Continued from page 1)

of about \$12.6 million for 1997, including a substantial proportion for UNRWA's regular budget, would be paid before the end of this year.

The United States, UNRWA's largest single cash donor country, announced \$7.5 million in additional funds for the agency in 1997, including \$1.5 million in emergency assistance for Lebanon. The Netherlands and Germany each pledged about \$1 million. Italy pledged about \$900,000 and Spain about \$500,000. Luxembourg announced that it would consider pledging an additional amount in the next few weeks.

According to Mr. Hansen, representatives of 26 donor nations also discussed the agency's 1998-1999 fiscal

budgets which were estimated at \$312 million each year, with an extra annual \$30 million in-kind contributions allocated for food and pharmaceutical supplies.

Throughout the past week, Palestinian refugees took to the streets protesting against the austerity measures imposed by the agency.

Demonstrators, represented by UNRWA school students, political activists, members of Parliament and agency staff representatives, staged sit-ins in front of UNRWA's Amman offices calling for the implementation of the United Nations Resolution 194 that calls for the return of Palestinians to their homeland.

The protests came amid fears that UNRWA budget cuts are a step towards per-

manently settling the refugees in exile. At Wednesday's press conference, Mr. Hansen ruled out accusations that donor countries "are plotting to reduce their contributions to the agency in order to end its mandate."

"I can understand there is a fertile ground for such theories. But I have absolutely no indication in any of my contacts with the donors that there is any such policy behind the difficulties in providing enough money for UNRWA's budget," stressed Mr. Hansen.

Following the agency's decision to cancel part of the service cuts, UNRWA staff representatives appeared sceptical that the new changes are a lasting solution and voiced fear that the austerity measures will resurface in the future.

"Covering the agency's budget deficit is but a fraction of the problem. After this December, the whole crisis will reappear," a member of UNRWA's staff committee told the Jordan Times Wednesday.

The commissioner general asserted that the agency will continue serving the refugees until their problem is solved.

He also reiterated the need for Arab countries to increase their contributions, which currently amount to one per cent of UNRWA's income.

Also on Wednesday, Mr. Hansen met with Minister of Foreign Affairs Fayez Tarawneh and discussed the financial crisis of UNRWA whose mandate addresses humanitarian and social aspects that touch upon the deprivation suffered by the Palestinian refugees.

## U.N. draft to help Iraq make up quota

(Continued from page 1)

approved a plan in early August for the distribution of supplies bought with the proceeds. This meant oil sales were, in effect, running two months behind schedule.

Iraq has repeatedly complained that the arrival and distribution of food and medicine has lagged behind the sale of its oil. It has blamed the U.N. Secretariat and the U.S. and British members of the council's Sanctions Committee for delaying the processing of contracts for supplies.

The resolution was submitted by British U.N. envoy Sir John Weston.

The resolution would note Iraq's decision not to export oil during the period from June 8 to August 13 and express deep concern over the "humanitarian consequences for the Iraqi people resulting from that decision," since the shortfall in oil revenues would delay the provision of humanitarian relief.

The draft made clear that this would be a one-time exemption.

## Treaty on landmines should be 'without exceptions, reservations, loopholes'

By Hind-Lara Mango  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — One week into the Oslo Diplomatic Conference, that started Sept. 1 and will last for three weeks, there are already mixed views as to the actual outcome of the meeting which is debating the wording of an Austrian draft to a new international humanitarian treaty banning the production, transfer, stockpiling, and use of anti-personnel landmines.

Dr. Ma'rouf Bakhit, vice president for military affairs at Mu'ta University, told the Jordan Times that Jordan did not have any hesitations regarding the actual wording of the text.

"In principle, Jordan supports all humanitarian efforts aimed at achieving a total ban on anti-personnel landmines," he said. That is why, Dr. Bakhit continued, Jordan had adopted the Brussels Declaration in July this year.

"Jordan is open to international cooperation, but we have to wait and see," he said, adding that Jordan will not sign before all states sign this treaty and it becomes universal.

Jordan did not commit itself to the final signing of the actual agreement, to take place in Ottawa in December, which would commit countries to long-term programmes to meet the

needs of mine victims and to clear existing mines.

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), which has been campaigning for the past four years for a universal ban on anti-personnel mines, has expressed satisfaction with the deliberations of the past week.

"The ICRC is extremely encouraged by the way things are going, on Sept. 8 we received the new text which will be the basis for negotiations for the coming week," said ICRC delegate to the Oslo Conference Stuart Maslene.

In a telephone interview with the Jordan Times Mr. Maslene said that the draft text is "very solid and, with a few improvements, will hopefully be adopted at the end of the conference."

According to the ICRC delegate, 91 states are currently full participants in the negotiations, whilst 30 remain as observers, as is the case with members from the ICRC, International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, the United Nations, and several non-governmental bodies.

Mr. Maslene explained that states described as observers are those that are not ready to support the Brussels Declaration or commit themselves to a total ban of anti-personnel mines. Other observers, however, have

expressed reservations regarding the outcome of the meeting, particularly since the United States, from the very first day of negotiations, proposed a permanent exception for new use of anti-personnel mines in Korea.

According to a statement by the International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL), "last minute participation by the U.S. and their introduction, on Sept. 1, of a geographic exception is perhaps the biggest threat to the whole process and our ability to come together and forge a true ban treaty."

The U.S. proposal to exempt U.N.-commanded forces in Korea from the general prohibition on anti-personnel mines remains on the table.

Mr. Maslene noted that although "there have been a number of proposals to change the definition (of anti-personnel mines) in the existing text and two possible exceptions," the large majority of states are calling for a strong and clear definition and a treaty without exceptions.

"It is very much our hope that states will make it clear that what we are doing is banning all anti-personnel mines immediately," Mr. Maslene stressed, adding that "the ultimate aim of the Oslo conference is a treaty without exceptions, reservations or loopholes."

## Hizbollah, Israel start negotiating on remains

(Continued from page 1)

A dozen Israeli commandos were killed last Friday when the heavily armed team was ambushed after landing on the Lebanese coast well north of its occupation zone. Many of the Israelis were ripped apart when explosives they were carrying detonated.

The ICRC head in Lebanon, Jean Jacques Fresard, met Hizbollah officials at the headquarters on Wednesday, the Islamist organisation said in a later

statement. Mr. Fresard delivered a message from Israel to Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri regarding the human remains on Tuesday.

The Hizbollah guerrillas, who had been joined by Amal militiamen and Lebanese soldiers in the fighting, displayed body parts left behind by the retreating Israelis to reporters 10 hours after the Friday clash.

The remains included a face and various limbs, including about five legs.

"According to my infor-

mation, the biggest number of remains and body parts is with the Islamic Resistance (Hizbollah)," Sheikh Nasrallah said when asked about reports other forces also had pieces of the bodies.

"There are the remains of a number of soldiers," he said. "There are a number of feet, which clearly indicates that the remains do not belong to one soldier."

The Israeli losses were their most serious in a single engagement in Lebanon since it pulled the bulk of its 1982 invasion force out in

1985, retaining only the 15-km deep strip of Lebanese territory adjoining the Israeli border.

In the wake of the failed operation, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu had to call on his cabinet colleagues to stop public discussion of a unilateral withdrawal from Lebanon.

Israel, which has had a presence in Lebanon since a 1978 invasion, has maintained the occupation is necessary to protect its northern border from cross-border attacks.

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## Daily Beat

A review of news from the Arabic press

### Government intends to lower land transport charges between Aqaba and Baghdad by about JD3

THE GOVERNMENT intends to lower the land transport charges between Aqaba and Baghdad by about JD3 from the present JD16 (\$22.5) level. A government source told Al Ra'i that a decision will soon be issued to lower the charges in light of studies conducted by the Ministry of Transport in this regard. The studies compared land transport charges between other neighbouring countries and Baghdad with those between Aqaba and the Iraqi capital.

The source said that the reduction was a government objective to consolidate the competitive edge of the Jordanian land transport sector and to rehabilitate the port of Aqaba to be also competitive with others that are eligible to become a port of transit for goods destined to Iraq. Baghdad has left the choice open for international companies to choose the most suitable port for delivering goods to Iraq from the pricing point of view.

Meanwhile, Ports Corporation Director General Mohammad Al Dalabeh ruled out any reduction in the short-term on loading and unloading fees. He indicated that the reductions enacted a while ago were more competitive and attractive than many charged in other ports of the region.

Captain Dalabeh gave an example by pointing out that lowering fees on containers raised the number of containers arriving at Aqaba to 104,000 during the first eight months of this year from 83,000 containers during the same period of 1996. "However, the corporation continues to study the level of fees applied in other ports in order to maintain the highest level of competitiveness and attractiveness," he said.

The director general revealed that the volume of imports and exports that passed through Aqaba during the first eight months of this year was about 7.6 million tonnes compared to 7.5 million tonnes during the same period of 1996. He said that the volume of exports rose from 184,000 tonnes to 264,000 tonnes noting that mining exports accounted for a large part of the exports.

He said that phosphate exports amounted to 2.9 million tonnes, a difference of 200,000 tonnes from the volume during the first eight months of last year. Cement exports were 241,000 tonnes (94,000 tonnes in 1996) and those of potash and fertiliser were 888,000 tonnes and 428,000 tonnes respectively (Al Ra'i).

### Earnings from telecommunications sector exceed JD200 million

EARNINGS FROM the telecommunications sector in Jordan exceed JD200 million and, as such, the telecommunications services are the highest contributor to the gross national product, Youssef Abu Jamous, director general of the Telecommunications Regulatory Commission, has said. He noted that the earnings were achieved from a network of 385,000 line in a country whose population is 4.2 million.

Mr. Abu Jamous indicated that the available technology, administrative experience, work concession and the sector's efficiency is underdeveloped than many of the other rich countries. Consequently, this situation necessitates that the restructuring process of this sector be absolutely correct," he stressed. The director general said much has been done in such a very short time but still there is a lot to do. "Jordan has set competitive but well coordinated objectives that were real in terms of what could be achieved," he added.

Mr. Abu Jamous concluded: "This step has placed Jordan at the forefront of development in the Middle East." He noted that the Kingdom is progressing rapidly to become a centre for knowledge and a base for skills (Al Aswaaq).

## Jordan, Yemeni businessmen to set up \$3m joint company

SANAA (Petra) — Private sector businessmen from Yemen and Jordan have decided to set up a \$3 million joint company to undertake different economic, trade and other activities in the two countries and abroad.

The announcement was made by the founders of the company: Salman Al Qudah from Jordan and Abdullah Mohammad Al Kholani from Yemen who said that the \$3 million initial capital may increase depending on the company's future activities. The \$3 million capital is shared equally by the two sides.

Noting that the company's head office will be in

Amman with a branch office to be opened in Sanaa, the announcement said that the heads of governments of Yemen and Jordan will be initiating the agreement. They also pointed out that the founders of the joint company will take a month to study details of the full agreement and include proposals and amendments to the final draft.

According to the announcement, the joint company's activities will cover marketing of agricultural products within Yemen and Jordan, conducting land, air and maritime transport operations, transporting passengers, providing health and ther-

apeutic treatment, organising trade fairs, undertaking tourism-related activities and other tasks related to economic and services sectors.

In their announcement the founders said that the creation of the company was a translation of the two countries' declared desire to further holter relations and in line with the Jordanian and Yemeni government's efforts to increase exchanged trade between them.

They said that Amman was chosen to house the head office was due to the central geographical location of the Kingdom.

## Jordan's stock sell-off plan to speed up in 1998

By Suleiman Khalidi Reuters

AMMAN — The head of Jordan's state investment body said Wednesday he expected it to accelerate divesting its vast stock portfolio in 1998 as foreign and local demand picks up. "If there is demand and... more interaction in the process of foreign and local investment then the corporation's role would be to increase its activity to meet and satisfy this demand," Mohammad Batayneh, director general of the state invest-

ment arm Jordan Investment Corp. (JIC), told Reuters.

Mr. Batayneh said the state's divestment programme of its stock portfolio in 1998 would be decided by year-end, adding that he expected it would expand from what has so far been sold as investor demand grows for Jordanian equity.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank have been pushing Jordan to divest state holdings to the private sector, a key component of a privatisation drive and IMF-directed structural reforms.

"We are progressing ahead in the programme to sell and divest some of our stock," said Mr. Batayneh, referring to JIC's vast portfolio. JIC and the state pension fund alone own nearly 40 per cent of Amman Financial Market's total capitalisation of \$4.7 billion.

Mr. Batayneh shrugged off investor criticism of slowness in the sell-off and blamed lack of knowledge and insufficient demand by investors since JIC began in 1995 to offer stakes in a diversified range of over 60 listed companies.

"We have no reservations at all, but we offered our holdings more than once either by direct contacts or advertising," Mr. Batayneh said, adding that JIC had not turned back any investor who had shown real interest in acquiring shares.

But JIC was not interested in divesting its portfolio just for the sake of it and wanted the right type of investor in certain industries, he said.

JIC has put on offer a variety of publicly listed shares since the sale of a

majority stake in 1995 in the InterContinental Hotel, the first successful sale of a major state asset to be put on the privatisation block.

Mr. Batayneh said JIC had this year alone sold minority holdings of five per cent and less in 18 publicly-listed companies either through the stock exchange and, or, directly to investors.

Mr. Batayneh denied some investor criticism that JIC was food-dragging in implementing the government's declared privatisation policy.

"There are no obstacles from inside JIC towards this subject because this is a political decision and we are executors of this decision (privatisation policy)," said Mr. Batayneh whose board of directors is headed by the minister of finance.

But he said JIC, with World Bank advice and expertise of a newly set-up state privatisation unit now in charge of charting policy, was seeking more innovative ways to target specific foreign investors to achieve better results.

The latest offering to foreign and local investors was up to 51 per cent of the government's share in the Irbid Electricity Co., part of a move to privatise the power sector.

JIC was also putting on sale a 70 per cent stake in a 314-room transit hotel close to the international airport and was still committed to complete the sale of a 33 per cent stake in Jordan Cement Factories by year-end.

Officials say the government also intends to speed privatisation of state utilities such as electricity, water and the state airlines by restructuring and splitting large enterprises.

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET											
HOUSING BANK CENTER AMMAN - JORDAN											
ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR WEDNESDAY 10/09/1997											
PAST 12 MONTHS HIGH	PAST 12 MONTHS LOW	COMPANY'S NAME	P / E	DIV.	NO. OF SHARES	NO. OF SEASONS	VALUE TRADED JD	OPEN PRICE	CLOSE PRICE	CHANGE	
346,000	239,500	ARAB BANK	15.5	1.19	15	820	208960	336.00	337.00	1.00	+
2,340	1,680	JOR. NATIONAL BK.	5	0.00	35	128291	250505	1.96	1.98	0.02	+
1,210	890	MID. EAST INV. BK.	59.1	0.00	3	2450	2205	90	90	0	-
2,480	2,150	INDUSTRIAL DEV. BK.	8.9	7.03	3	3087	6915	2.34	2.25	-0.09	-
5,200	4,600	THE HOUSING BK.	14.5	4.00	8	12665	61356	4.85	4.85	0	-
4,180	2,440	JOR. KUNWAT BANK	11.3	0.00	8	6301	20038	3.18	3.18	0	-
1,050	760	JOR. GULF BANK	4.6	9.08	6	50000	44660	0.77	0.77	0	-
1,810	1,450	ARAB JOR. INV. BK.	17.1	0.00	3	14600	51830	3.60	3.58	-0.02	-
4,050	3,520	JOR. ISLAMIC BANK	15.7	3.11	8	12400	48264	3.90	3.86	-0.04	-
1,680	1,110	UNION BK. DEV. INV.	0.02	0.00	4	1850	2222	1.24	1.20	-0.04	-
3,800	3,080	JOR. INV. FIN. BANK	21.9	0.00	1	50	170	3.38	3.40	0.02	+
2,320	940	BEIT AL-HAL (SHRINA)	6	16.85	9	3650	3273	0.94	0.89	-0.05	-
BANK SECTOR TOTALS			INDEX: 240.46	%CHG: +0.26	103	243964	700398				
4,550	3,800	JERUSALEM INSUR.	10.7	5.06	1	250	988	3.95	3.95	0	-
2,210	1,590	JOR. PRIMEV. INSUR.	4.9	8.62	1	3000	5220	1.74	1.74	0	-
INSURANCE SECTOR TOTALS			INDEX: 114.70	%CHG: 0.00	2	3250	6208				
1,820	1,550	JOR. ELECTRIC PWR.	8.5	5.65	176	150200	266154	1.75	1.77	0.02	+
2,100	1,320	TRIBO ELECTRICITY	13.2	5.20	1	200	221	2.10	2.21	0.11	+
7,500	6,000	VEHICLE OWNERS' FED.	7.9	4.83	5	16596	121046	7.25	7.25	0	-
3,050	2,280	SHIPPING LINES	16.3	4.64	1	500	3400	2.80	2.80	0	-
1,550	930	NATL. PORTFOLIO	9	0.00	13	7300	10459	1.44	1.43	-0.01	-
1,790	1,150	JOR. ELEC. HOLDERS	19.2	0.00	5	1850	3211	1.70	1.68	-0.02	-
3,720	2,890	ARAB INTL. INV. EDUC.	9.0	0.00	26	12550	42605	3.37	3.43	0.06	+
1,220	930	SAPKA EDUCATION	9	0.00	7	7500	7705	1.06	1.02	-0.04	-
1,230	1,430	UNION BANK DEV. INV.	0.03	0.00	12	3000	5232	1.73	1.74	0.01	+
1,010	640	UNION LAND DEV.	9	0.00	4	7000	5160	0.74	0.74	0	-
SERVICE SECTOR TOTALS			INDEX: 112.31	%CHG: +0.42	249	206696	462301				
1,100	930	ATTACHEES	9	0.00	1	800	800	1.00	1.00	0	-
4,450	3,230	JOR. CEMENT FACT.	26.2	2.83	26	11968	46550	3.89	3.89	0	-
7,050	5,400	ARAB POTASH CO.	16.2	3.26	4	5250	3151	6.00	6.10	0.10	+
10,750	9,070	JOR. PETROL. REFINERY	10.5	8.16	29	6918	74719	10.72	10.89	0.17	+
1,470	1,050	MOJER INDUSTRIES	9.7	8.15	12	7850	8854	1.14	1.12	-0.02	-
2,360	1,620	INDUSTRIAL COM. ANGL.	9	0.00	1	971	1828	1.70	1.68	-0.02	-
7,150	5,800	JOR. HORSESHOE HILLS	11.0	2.92	6	1400	9618	6.90	6.85	-0.05	-
4,430	3,040	ARAB PHARM. MANF.	12.7	4.35	38	18588	87717	4.42	4.40	-0.02	-
1,580	1,150	JOR. ALUM. IND.	8.8	0.00	2	928	2410	2.58	2.60	0.02	+
2,530	1,050	NAPIA INDUSTRIES	9	0.00	2	500	550	1.10	1.10	0	-
5,650	4,300	DAR ALADAM PV. INV.	13.8	4.45	12	6222	34887	5.60	5.62	0.02	+
3,850	2,220	ARAB ALUM. IND.	10.5	0.00	2	250	593	2.32	2.37	0.05	+
960	450	LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	9.9	0.00	17	17250	8163	0.47	0.47	0	-
1,290	1,000	ARAB PAPER CONV. TRD.	31.8	0.00	4	750	774	1.03	1.04	0.01	+
770	510	NATIONAL IND.	9	0.00	10	6600	2432	0.52	0.52	0	-
1,200	510	INTERMED. PETRO. CHEM.	9	0.00	8	3700	2073	0.57	0.56	-0.01	-
2,980	1,510	UNIV. CHEM. IND.	12.8	6.54	1	300	459	1.51	1.53	0.02	+
890	520	JOR. SULPH. CHEM.	9	0.00	1	500	3045	0.62	0.61	-0.01	-
1,870	1,120	ARAB PHARM. CHEM.	17.4	5.15	6	1400	1904	1.35	1.36	0.01	+
1,880	1,080	UNIV. HOOD. IND.	9	0.00	6	9050	10131	1.25	1.26	0.01	+
1,510	930	JOR. ALUM. IND.	12.2	10.00	8	10815	3511	0.81	0.81	0	-
1,620	1,300	NATL. CHLORINE	14.9	4.43	17	21670	34644	1.58	1.58	0	-
1,070	810	JOR. NEW CABLE CO.	15.2	0.00	19	8800	7323	0.83	0.83	0	-
2,090	1,340	EL. & TEL. REPAIR WORK	55.6	0.00	1	80	79	1.18	1.18	0	-
1,320	1,080	INTL. TOBACCO	6.4	0.00	3	1350	1580	1.17	1.17	0	-
1,160	860	UNION CH. & VEG.	51.8	0.00	4	12400	14086	1.12	1.14	0.02	+
INDUSTRIAL SECTOR TOTALS			INDEX: 122.34	%CHG: +0.93	247	341643	694521				
GRAND TOTAL			INDEX: 175.67	%CHG: +0.50	601	795553	1863427				
PARALLEL MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR WEDNESDAY 10/09/1997											
650	380	JOR. TRADE PAC.	10.4	0.00	6	5500	2145	0.38	0.39	0.01	+
950	540	JOR. FIN. INV. CO.	9	0.00	35	69174	43800	0.61	0.64	0.03	+
840	660	UNION INV. SOF.	9	0.00	10	28500	6564	0.73	0.74	0.01	+
570	380	ARAB FIN. INVEST.	9	0.00	11	24700	9137	0.36	0.37	0.01	+
1,050	850	UNION FOR FINANC. INV.	52.1	0.00	6	55000	55000	0.95	1.00	0.05	+
570	380	NATL. INV. TRD.	46.4	0.00	13	28000	13520	0.40	0.42	0.02	+
750	400	NATL. INV. TRD. MANICO	9	0.00	22	19600	8428	0.43	0.43	0	-
820	710	JORDAN STEEL	34.4	6.58	6	3228	2452	0.76	0.76	0	-
580	450	ARAB ELEC. IND.	8	0.00	2	6000	2265	0.47	0.46	-0.01	-
730	580	MID. EAST PETRO. 75%	8	0.00	2	6000	2265	0.47	0.46	-0.01	-
1,190	860	UNION TOBACCO 75%	9	0.00	4	1300	1170	1.14	1.15	0.01	+
730	580	RAIT PHARM. 85%	8	0.00	4	3900	1170	0.66	0.66	0	-
570	290	INDS. 890	9	0.00	4	3900	1170	0.66	0.66	0	-
860	690	INDS. 890	16.1	0.00	1	800	345	0.69	0.69	0	-
620	590	NATL. PETRO. 75%	8	0.00	2	6000	2265	0.47	0.46	-0.01	-
1,000	700	NAT. ALUMINIUM 75%	97.4	0.00	9	9050	4073	0.70	0.70	0	-
860	580	MID. EAST COMPLEX	7.5	16.39	20	24250	14458	0.59	0.61	0.02	+
GRAND TOTAL			162	284252	165314						

1: New 12 months high  
2: New 12 months low  
3: Listed during the past 12 months  
4: P/E ratio is 100 or more  
5: Negative P/E  
6: Earnings is zero or N/A for the most recent year

### THE BETTER HALF. By Glasbergen



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### JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME



# Graf returns in November

BALTIMORE (AFP) — Former World No. 1 Steffi Graf will make her return from knee surgery at a one-night charity exhibition against American Chanda Rubin here in November, organisers said.

Former WTA player Pam Shriver said Graf will be the main lure for her 12th annual charity exhibition event here on November 25, two days after the end of the WTA Championships in New York.

Graf won the season-ending WTA event last year but apparently will not defend her title, preferring a slower comeback.

Graf said at the U.S. Open she was uncertain when she would return but was targeting her rehabilitation efforts to be ready for the Australian Open in January.

"I saw Steffi at the Open and was delighted to find her excited about coming back to the tour," Shriver said. "It's very special to be able to have her begin her comeback in Baltimore."

Graf, 28, had knee surgery in June and missed most of this season while Swiss 16-year-old sensation Martina Hingis has moved to the top of the women's tennis world, winning three Grand Slam titles and missing a Slam sweep by losing in the French Open finals.

Hingis won the U.S. Open title Sunday, beating 17-year-old American prodigy Venus Williams in the final.

"I'm sure after seeing all the young talent playing so well at the Open she is inspired," event chairman Billie Jean King said. "By November 25 she probably won't be able to wait to play."

Graf said at the Open she had been undergoing rehabilitation in Austria, and had started to run and cycle. She said she hadn't really started hitting the ball, since she doesn't have enough range of movement.



Steffi Graf

## Fans give Fayed standing ovation

LONDON (AFP) — Mohammad Al Fayed was given a standing ovation by football fans Tuesday when he made his first public appearance since the funeral of Diana, Princess of Wales.

The owner of Harrods, whose son Dodi died in the same crash in which the Princess was killed, was given a rapturous reception as he walked to the centre of the pitch before Fulham's second division match against Plymouth.

His spokesman addressed the crowd, thanking them on Fayed's behalf for their messages of support.

Fayed then took a pace forward and said simply: "I just want to say, thank you and God bless you all." Fayed, chairman of Fulham, listened to a lone piper play a special lament, which was followed by a minute's silence before kick-off.

All proceeds from the match were being donated to the memorial fund set up following the princess's death. Supporters arriving for the match paused to inspect floral tributes at the ground's gates.

Books of condolence were placed around the ground for supporters to sign.

## Guidi takes over lead in Tour of Spain

JEREZ DE LA FRONTERA, Spain (AFP) — Italy's Fabrizio Guidi took over the leader's yellow jersey in the Tour of Spain following Tuesday's fourth stage.

The 192.5-kilometre leg from Huelva was won in a sprint by Spaniard Eleuterio Anguita, who held off Italy's Claudio Camin and Jan Svoboda of the Czech Republic in the battle for the line.

Anguita, 25, is the first Spaniard to win a Tour of Spain stage since Marino Alonso in 1994.

Guidi, who moved from fifth to third on Monday, has the same time as Denmark's Lars Michaelson at the head of the overall standings after Tuesday's stage, but leads by virtue of his consistently higher places in the race so far.

The Italian, who is on the

way back after injuring his collar-bone in August during the Tour of Denmark, admitted his surprise at having suddenly moved to the front of the field.

"I've done nothing so far and now I'm in yellow. We'll see what happens tomorrow," Guidi said.

Anguita moved up to third overall with victory. "It's not my victory it's the team's," said the Tosca rider. "I'm third without even having thought about it."

Michaelson fell for the second time in the race, crashing on a bend close to the finish along with, among others, Italian Claudio Chiappucci. The Dane had already fallen in a sprint during the second stage.

## SPORTS IN BRIEF

### Everton target Greek ace

LIVERPOOL (AFP) — Everton chief Howard Kendall, desperate for a major signing to appease frustrated fans, has targeted Greek star Zisis Vrizas. Kendall, who has just returned from a weekend trip to Athens where Everton lost 4-1 to Panathinaikos in a friendly, made an inquiry about the PAOK Salonika striker while he was in Greece. Vrizas played under Kendall when the Everton chief had a six-month spell with Xanthi two years ago, but he has since been transferred to PAOK. Now Kendall reckons that Vrizas could be the player to end his lengthy search for a strike partner for Duncan Ferguson. Kendall plans to watch the Greek international in PAOK's UEFA Cup clashes with Arsenal later this month. "He is a player I admired when I was out in Greece," said Kendall. "When we were in Athens at the weekend, I inquired whether he was available."

### Italy ready for Sweden

ROME (AFP) — Italy's new tennis captain Paolo Bertolucci named a four-man squad on Tuesday for their Davis Cup semi-final against Sweden. Bertolucci, replacing Adriano Panatta who quit as Italy's non-playing skipper, called up Renzo Furlan, Marzio Martelli, Omar Camporese and Diego Nargiso for the match at Norrköping from September 19-21. Sweden, who lost last year's final to France at Malmö, will be fielding Jonas Björkman, Thomas Enqvist, Magnus Larsson and Nicklas Pietrangeli.

### Fettis heads for Blackburn

BLACKBURN (AFP) — Nottingham Forest goalkeeper Alan Fettis is set to join Premiership leaders Blackburn Rovers. The clubs have agreed a 300,000 pound (about \$480,000) fee and Northern Ireland international Fettis is currently undergoing a medical.

Fettis found himself relegated down the pecking order at Forest following the summer arrival of Swiss star Marco Pascolo and was transfer-listed after manager Dave Bassett was unable to give him any assurances regarding his first team future at the first division club. Blackburn need a second goalkeeper to back up Tim Flowers after Australian John Filan suffered a broken arm last month and faces up to 12 months on the sidelines.

### Fish move tangled in red tape

BOLTON (AFP) — South African star Mark Fish will not make his debut for Bolton against Arsenal on Saturday after his move to the Premiership club from Lazio became tangled in red tape. Fish, 23, has flown back to South Africa to train with his former club Orlando Pirates while Bolton wait for his work permit following his two million pound (about \$3.2 million) transfer from the Italian club. Bolton spokesman Alan Fullelove said: "It's looking unlikely that he will be able to play on Saturday. Mark has flown home because you can't get a work permit while you are in this country. It's a red tape thing and he will stay away until we receive it." Manager Colin Todd added: "I can't tell when it will come. All the paperwork has been done and we have just got to be patient."

### Adams set for Arsenal return

LONDON (AFP) — Arsenal star Tony Adams is set for a long-awaited return to action in Saturday's Premiership clash against Bolton after a five-month injury ordeal. The England defender missed the end of last season with an ankle injury and has yet to figure in the first team this term. But he put himself in line for a recall after coming through a reserve game against Southampton at Highbury on Tuesday. He played the full 90 minutes after which he declared himself happy with his fitness. "The game went well and I feel fine," Adams said. "I will train on Thursday and I am hopeful for Saturday, although the manager will make the decision."

### Yeboah move stalled

BONN (AFP) — Tony Yeboah's move from Leeds to German club Hamburg hit a new obstacle on Tuesday when it emerged the Ghanaian international could face charges of tax evasion from his previous spell in Germany. Yeboah is reported to be the subject of an enquiry by German tax authorities who claim the player failed to pay around a million German marks (about \$555,000) in tax while playing for Eintracht Frankfurt in 1993. Yeboah is suspected of having concealed income of 2.3 million German marks received while playing for Eintracht. "This tax story could become a problem," admitted Hamburg director Werner Hackmann. "If we don't clear it up, the move will fall through." Leeds and Hamburg agreed a transfer fee of around one million pounds (\$1.6 million) for the 31-year-old last week.

### Maradona's suspension lifted

BUENOS AIRES (AFP) — Argentine justice authorities Tuesday ordered the lifting of a suspension order imposed against football star Diego Maradona, according to an Argentine Football Association (AFA) official. The decision followed an appeal by Maradona's lawyers against the temporary suspension ordered after the football legend tested positive for an illegal substance last month. Maradona failed to appear before the AFA disciplinary committee Tuesday but was represented at the hearing by his lawyer and his manager who said they presented a statement the football star had written. Maradona tested positive after an August 24 Argentine League match in which he scored a penalty for his club Boca Juniors. The result was confirmed in a September 3 follow-up test. Maradona has admitted to a cocaine addiction but denied he used the drug to improve his game. He had already tested positive for drugs twice before: in 1991 when he was playing for Napoli and during the 1994 World Cup in the United States.

## Olympic question: Should bid leader also guide 2004 planning?

ATHENS (AP) — The leader of Athens' successful bid for the 2004 Olympics hinted Tuesday that she may want to avoid a public battle over whether she stays in charge of the committee that organises the Summer Games.

Gianna Angelopoulos-Daskalaki, a lawyer and former parliament member who attained heroic status for bringing the Games back to their birthplace, said in an interview that running an Olympic organising committee is "a different role" from leading a bid.

"It's a very difficult task, different from the bidding process, completely different ... it's a huge responsibility," the first woman to lead a successful Olympic bid committee told the Associated Press.

Since beating Rome and three other cities last Friday in a vote by the international Olympic committee, Angelopoulos-Daskalaki has been the focus of speculation over her future.

Some important figures insist that the job should automatically be her's. Other officials are less clear, hinting that too much is at stake to leave the Olympics in the hands of someone without experience organising major sporting events.

Angelopoulos-Daskalaki remains carefully diplomatic. But a possible added complication in the decision is that she served in parliament with the conservative New Democracy Party — now the main opposition to the socialist government of premier Costas Karamanlis, who could face pressure to appoint a party stalwart to the high-profile Olympic job.

The wife of a millionaire involved in shipping and steel, she repeatedly stressed her sense of accomplishment — which she described as "something like winning a war." She also, however, made note of the heavy pressures that accompanied the job.

"What I've done, I've done it fully committed, fully devoted — me, my hus-

band, my people. I forgot all personal aspects of my life and I've done it," she said in her offices filled with still-fresh bouquets, a brick-size stack of congratulatory telegrams sat on a chair.

"But I'll say it again: I don't want anything in return," she added. "As everyone who worked (on the bid), we want to see that the games are successful. OK, but that doesn't mean I want this or that other role."

The Greek media have speculated that she wants to be an ambassador or eventually seek the mostly ceremonial Greek presidency. Angelopoulos-Daskalaki labelled those reports "nonsense."

Even if Angelopoulos-Daskalaki does not guide, the organising effort, her stamp on the undertaking is already felt. Many political leaders, including Athens' mayor, have praised her unruffled style and urged others to learn a lesson.

"In the bottom of my heart, I knew we would win. But I never, never expressed that to anybody," she said. "But it was not a silly kind of feeling ... or that I saw a dream or something, it was just a feeling that I was looking forward to the decision."

There also was a bit of superstition.

In her purse, she carried the tie worn by the head of the bid committee from Sydney when they were awarded the 2000 Games. She also had a four-leaf clover someone had given her earlier in the day.

## Raiders recover from devastating loss

ALAMEDA, California (AP) — After a night of praying and a morning of sharing their pain, the Oakland Raiders tried to recover Tuesday from yet another heartbreaking loss — and to deal with their defeat in public.

The Raiders lost 28-27 to bitter rival Kansas City on Monday night when Elvis Grbac threw a 33-yard scoring pass to Andre Rison with three seconds remaining, completing the Chiefs' rally from a 14-point deficit.

The loss left the Raiders winless under new coach Joe Bugel and struggling to deal with the disappointment of yet another close defeat.

"The last time I had hurt like that was when my mom died," Bugel said. "It was 59 minutes and 57 seconds of happiness, and then you just felt like someone cut your heart out."

Players lifted weights

and did running drills Tuesday, then talked among themselves about how to get over the pain of the loss.

"It's a hard one to swallow. If you didn't hurt, you shouldn't be here," said Jeff George, who had two scoring passes to Ricky Dudley but also threw two late interceptions — including an underhanded shovel pass returned 55 yards for a touchdown — in his Raiders home debut. "I think everybody should be hurting right now."

Oakland lost its season opener in overtime at Tennessee. Monday night was continued a string of close losses — all but one of the raiders' nine defeats last season was by a touchdown or less.

"These are the dog days," said Tim Brown, who caught 11 passes for 155 yards against the chiefs. "I think the team is somber right now, but I think

everybody is eager to go out and prove that we're the best 0-2 team in the league."

The Raiders closed their locker room to the media after the loss and Bugel refused to give the required post-game news conference. That could lead to a fine, and NFL spokesman Greg Aiello said Tuesday the league was looking into the situation and awaiting a response from the Raiders.

On Tuesday, Bugel began a news conference with a long apology to reporters.

"I couldn't even talk. I was beside myself," Bugel said of his feelings after the game. "I went back to my office, and before I knew it probably half the night was gone. I was speechless. I don't know if I had talked to the press if I would have been able to make any sense. I just hurt. I just hurt badly. It was a very empty feeling last night."

## Dundee United dump Rangers out of League Cup

GLASGOW (AFP) — A stunning extra-time volley by Dundee United substitute Gary McSwegan consigned holders Rangers to a shock Scottish League Cup quarter-final exit at Ibrox Park on Tuesday night.

McSwegan's goal six minutes into extra-time gave United a 1-0 win over

a Rangers team deprived of several internationals who were on World Cup duty.

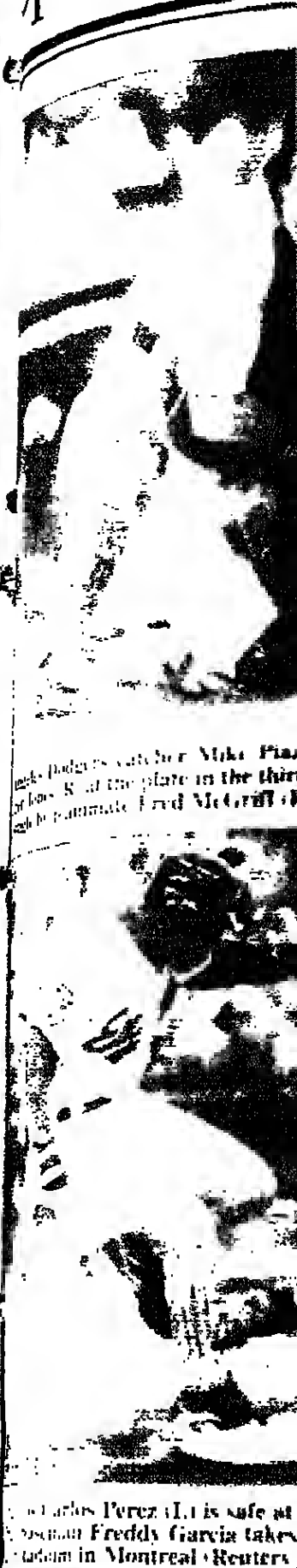
The home side dominated throughout but could not find a way through a determined and well-organised United side, who snatched the tie with virtually their only shot on target.

Italian striker Marco

Negri, scorer of five goals against the same opposition last month, was held scoreless by the United defence.

Dunfermline Athletic also advanced to the semis with a 1-0 win over Hearts — thanks to a goal late in extra-time by Alan Moore.

Sports



Charles Perez (left) is safe at ... Freddy Garcia takes ... in Montreal (Reuters)

## MAJOR LEAGUE

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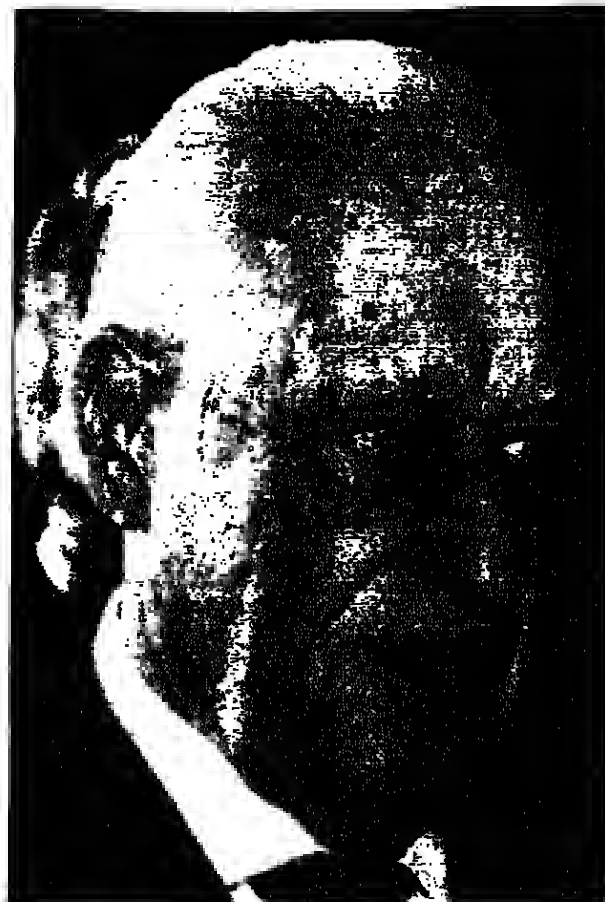
## Albert Costa easily wins at Marbella Open

MARBELLA (AP) — Top seed Albert Costa of Spain rolled to convincing win over countryman Fernando Vicente Tuesday in the first round of the \$328,000 Marbella Open. Costa defeated Vicente 6-1, 6-1 at the clay court tournament played at the Manolo Santana tennis club in this southern Spanish resort town. Second-seed Spaniard Berasategui advanced into the second round after defeating Carlos Costa, 6-0, 6-3. The tournament's 3rd seed Albert Portas of Spain struggled early on his way to defeating Spaniard Juan Antonio Viloca 3-6, 7-5, 6-2. In other matches, Guillaume Raouz of France defeated Emilio Sanchez of Spain, 6-1, 6-3 while Marcello Craca of Germany beat Gilbert Schaller of Austria, 6-3, 6-2.

## Havelange arrives in Amman Saturday

By Tareq Ayyoub  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — President of the International Football Federation (FIFA) Joao Havelange will arrive here on Saturday where he is expected to meet with His Majesty King Hussein, a spokesman of the Jordan Football Association (JFA) said Wednesday. Saleh Irsheidat, the JFA vice president, said Mr. Havelange's visit comes upon an invitation which was extended to him by His Royal Highness Prince Abdullah, the JFA president, during a meeting in Zurich in May. Dr. Irsheidat told the Jordan Times that Mr. Havelange's six-hour-long visit will focus on the cooperation between FIFA and the JFA. He added that Mr. Havelange, who is currently in Cairo to attend the U-17 World Cup, will be accompanied by three of his deputies and two Arab members of FIFA's executive committee. Dr. Irsheidat emphasized that the meeting of Mr. Havelange with King Hussein depends on the arrival of the U.S. secretary of state, Madeleine



Joao Havelange

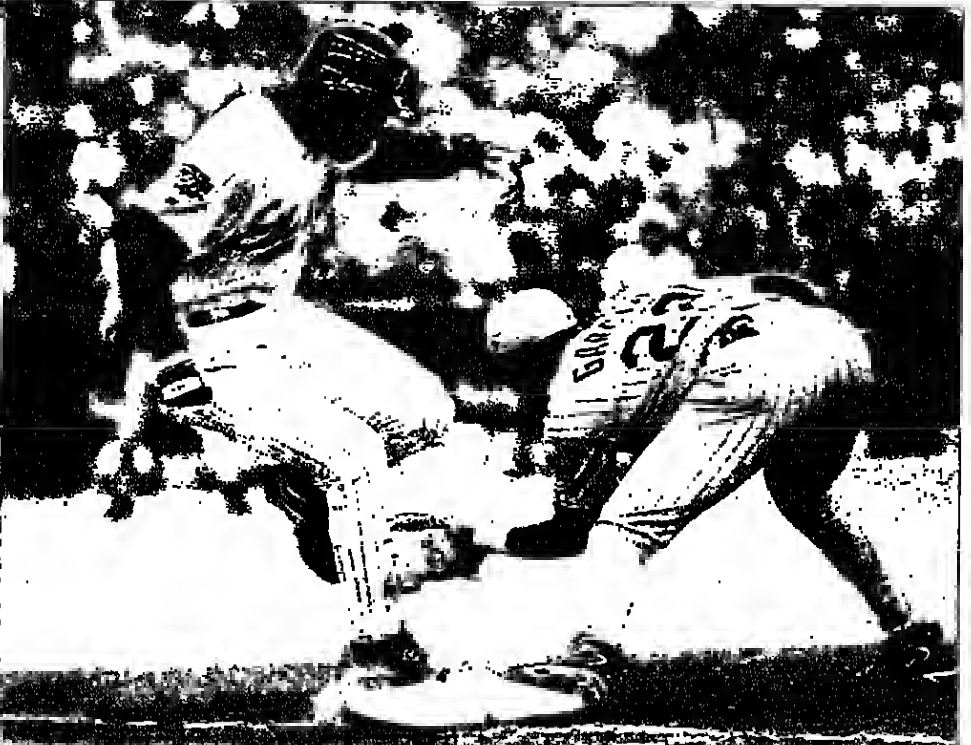
Albright, who is currently visiting the region. News reports said that during Mr. Havelange's Middle East tour, the Brazilian national official is expected to travel to Beirut and the Gaza Strip

and discuss enhancing the relationship between the JFA and FIFA, Dr. Irsheidat said.

Asked whether the two sides will discuss Jordan's chances to host international football tournaments, the JFA official said that it is premature to discuss this issue because "Jordan still needs more sports facilities" which will enable the Kingdom to host such events.

Dr. Irsheidat said that four years ago FIFA had approved financial assistance to Asian soccer associations, but conditioned this assistance with "presenting a well-defined programme in this regard."

"The visit of Mr. Havelange to Jordan is an honour for the JFA and to Jordanian soccer, which has achieved a very good record on the Arab scene," said Dr. Irsheidat, referring to Jordan's gold medal win at the 8th Pan-Arab Games which were held in Lebanon last July.



Monteal Expos Carlos Perez (L) is safe at first on a third inning bunt as Pittsburgh Pirates first baseman Freddy Garcia takes the throw during National League action at Olympic Stadium in Montreal (Reuters photo)

## MAJOR LEAGUE RESULTS

National League				American League			
Cincinnati	5	Cubs	2	Detroit	4	Texas	0
Montreal	5	Pittsburgh	4	Oakland	5	Minnesota	1
Philadelphia	1	NY Mets	0	NY Yankees	8	Boston	6
Houston	7	Colorado	4	Baltimore	9	Cleveland	3
Atlanta	4	Los Angeles	3	Toronto	2	Anaheim	0
San Diego	7	Florida	6	White Sox	4	Milwaukee	1
St Louis	5	San Francisco	3	Seattle	4	Kansas City	3

## Tigers stop Rangers; A's win

DETROIT (AP) — Scott Sanders pitched a one-hitter, allowing only a fifth-inning single to Domingo Cedeño, for his first career shutout as the Detroit Tigers defeated the Texas Rangers 4-0 Tuesday.

Sanders (5-12), just 1-6 with a 6.04 era in 10 previous starts with Detroit, struck out a season-high eight and walked one. Sanders retired the first 14 batters before Cedeño singled cleanly to left-center field with two outs in the fifth. Sanders set down the next 12 hitters before walking Tom Gooden in with two outs in the ninth.

The right-hander's other win since the Tigers obtained him July 18 in a trade with Seattle was Aug. 9 at Toronto. His only other win as a starter this year was May 26 at Minnesota in his final start for the Mariners.

Rookie Juan Encarnacion hit a two-run triple for the Tigers, who swept the two-game series and won for the ninth time in their last 12 games. Texas has lost five in a row, scoring just four runs in that span. Rick Helling (2-2) gave up six hits in 7 2-3 innings, but four came in the second inning when the Tigers scored all their runs. Athletics 5, Twins 1.

In Minneapolis, Jimmy Haynes struck out a season-high nine batters and Dave Magadan and Ben Grieve each had a pair of RBI singles to lead the Oakland Athletics over the Minnesota Twins.

Only 9,705 tickets were sold for the game, the second smallest Metrodome crowd this season. A season-low 9,363 tickets were purchased for Monday night's opener of the two-game series.

## British soccer corruption report completed

LONDON (AFP) — The long-awaited report of the Premier League's inquiry into so-called "bungs" — illegal payments to managers or club officials for the transfer of players — has finally been completed. After more than three years of work, the commission have now drafted their conclusions. The inquiry was set up by the Premier League following allegations made during

the bitter court battle for control of Tottenham Hotspur between chairman Alan Sugar and his sacked chief executive, Terry Venables. Investigators went on the trail of a 50,000 pounds (about \$80,000) payment that went "missing" during the transfer of Teddy Sheringham from Nottingham Forest to Tottenham in 1992. With football still reeling from George Graham's admissions that he had received 240,000 pounds (about \$380,000) from Norwegian agent Rune Hauge following Arsenal's signings

of John Jensen and Pal Lydersen, the League and the Football Association decided to take action.

## TOYOTA CORONA FOR SALE

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## Kafelnikov, Henman advance in Tashkent

TASHKENT (AP) — Top seed Yevgeny Kafelnikov brushed off an early challenge by a hometown qualifier to win his opening match Tuesday in the inaugural President's Cup, a \$405,000 tournament on the ATP Tour. The Russian survived a four-game run by obscure challenger Dmitry Tomashchik that tied the first set at 4-4, delighting a capacity crowd of 3,000 in the newly opened Yunsuhad tennis centre.

Then Kafelnikov, just bumped down a spot to fourth in the world rankings by U.S. Open victor Patrick Rafter, quickly reasserted control to win 6-4, 6-2. Second seed Tim Henman had a tougher time with Thierry Champion of France before prevailing 6-

4, 6-7 (8-6), 7-6 (7-4). No. 3 seed Marc Rosset completed first-round play on Wednesday against Russia's Andrei Cherkasov. The only seed to fall victim to an upset in the opening round so far is No. 7 Nicolas Pietrangeli of Germany, bounced Monday by Russian qualifier Andrei Stoilarov.

Kafelnikov is the only tournament participant ranked in the world's top 20. Uzbekistan President Islam Karimov presided at opening ceremonies Tuesday at the impressive new tennis centre, which got good reviews from the players. The singles winner of the week-long event gets \$58,000 prize money, while the runnerup gets \$34,000.

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## GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAMMAM HIRSH  
PLAY OR DEFEND?  
East-West vulnerable. South deals.  
NORTH  
♠ 10 9 6 5 4  
♥ 8  
♦ K J 10 5  
♣ K 7  
WEST  
♠ A J 8 7 3 2  
♥ 8 2  
♦ 9 8  
♣ 6 5  
EAST  
♠ Q  
♥ 7 6 4  
♦ A 8 7 4 3 2  
♣ A 4  
The bidding:  
SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST  
1♣ 1♦ 1♥ 1♠  
2♥ 2♠ 2♥ 2♠  
3♥ 3♠ 3♥ 3♠  
4♥ 4♠ 4♥ 4♠  
5♥ 5♠ 5♥ 5♠  
6♥ 6♠ 6♥ 6♠  
7♥ 7♠ 7♥ 7♠  
Opening lead: Ace of ♠  
Study the diagram above. Would you rather declare or defend four hearts after the lead of the ace of spades?  
Note that South has a four-heart opening bid at any vulnerability. The heart suit is a near-certainty to produce six tricks and the five-card

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## '97 settler house sales in West Bank up 50%

TEL AVIV (R) — Sales of Jewish settler apartments in the occupied West Bank have risen by more than 50 per cent this year under Israeli leader Benjamin Netanyahu's right-wing government.

An adviser to Deputy Construction and Housing Minister Meir Porush said Wednesday the Haaretz newspaper was "more or less" correct to report sales were up 56 per cent in the first seven months of 1997 compared to the same period last year.

News of the sales emerged at the start of a Middle East peace-saving visit by U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright. U.S. President Bill Clinton has called the settlements on land occupied by Israel since 1967 an "obstacle to peace."

Haaretz said the largest rise in West Bank home sales was among immigrants, whose purchases were up 84 per cent on the figures for the same period in 1996.

Under the terms of \$10 billion in U.S. loan guarantees Israel's dovish previous government won from the United States in 1992 to help settle immigrants from the former Soviet Union, Israel was not to direct immigrants to the occupied lands.

The newspaper said 1,560 apartments had been sold since the start of the year, most of them completed apartments standing empty for years. It said the rise was in sharp contrast to the trend in Israel where the number of mortgages has been dropping.

The housing ministry adviser, Moshe Elat, said the government was only forcing Jews to pay for apartments they had taken over since 1992 in defiance of the prior government that froze Jewish settlement expansion to accelerate peace moves.

"A lot of people broke into their apartments and began to renovate them themselves because the government decided to stop them in the middle of the process," Mr. Elat told Reuters.

"These are people who already lived there, so they are not new settlers. They are people who lived there but they didn't own their homes," he said.

The Likud-led government of Mr. Netanyahu reversed the settlement freeze imposed in 1992 by Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and maintained by his successor Shimon Peres. Mr. Netanyahu enacted the change within weeks of taking office last June.

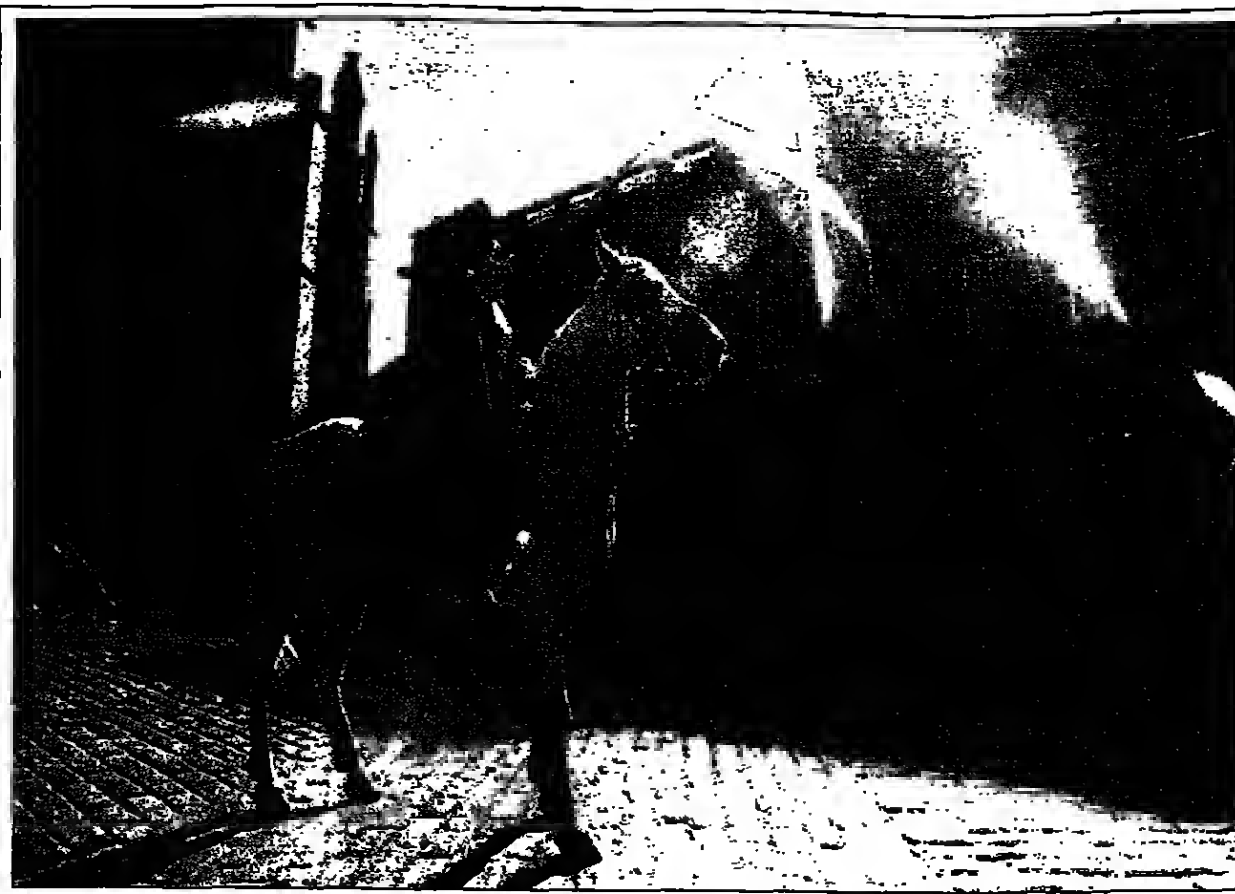
"Now the Likud government says to them: 'You live in these apartments, you have to buy them. Otherwise we'll have to throw you out.' Some of them already bought the apartments, some of them are negotiating," Mr. Elat said.

Likud backs Jewish settlement and opposes the policy of swapping occupied land for peace with the Palestinians backed by the Labour Party of both the late Rabin and Mr. Peres, who was defeated by Mr. Netanyahu in May elections.

Under Mr. Netanyahu, the West Bank has been designated a national priority area for Jewish settlers, entitling buyers to financial incentives, including assistance on mortgages, education and other subsidies.

The newspaper said that since 1988 some 17,600 mortgages had been granted in the West Bank, four per cent of the total mortgages granted over the period.

More than 130,000 Jews live in settlements scattered among some two million Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza. Peace moves have been stuck over Jewish settlement expansion and bombings that have killed 20 Israelis since July.



SCOTLAND VOTES TOMORROW: A woman on a horse waving a Scottish saltire takes part in a re-enactment of the delivery of petitions in the eighteenth century, to Parliament square in Edinburgh calling for a Scottish Assembly, Wednesday. Scotland will tomorrow vote on whether they will have a Scottish Assembly with tax raising powers. The last Scottish parliament was in the year 1707 (Reuters photo)

## Democracy and employment to top agenda of Inter-Parliamentary Union

CAIRO (AFP) — Parliamentarians from around the world begin a five-day conference here Thursday to discuss consolidating democracy and creating full employment to meet the challenges of world globalisation.

The 98th meeting of the Geneva-based Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), which will bring together around 1,500 parliamentarians from 138 countries, will be opened by Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak.

The flags of the member countries, including Israel's Star of David and the Palestinian colours, have been raised across Cairo's main avenues, and the stalled Middle East peace process will be among the topics addressed here.

Conference speakers will include Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Moussa, the

President of Egypt's People's Assembly, Ahmad Fathi Srour, and the director general of the U.N. office in Geneva, Vladimir Petrovsky.

The MPs, some of whom represent countries ruled by dictators, will discuss two key topics: ensuring lasting democracy by forging close links between parliament and the people, and employment under world globalisation, including such issues as the effects of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) on developing countries.

Delegates will also endorse an "international declaration on democracy" aimed at guaranteeing freedom of elections and human rights and on governments' responsibility to achieve peace and stability for their people, Mr. Srour said.

The peace process will be at the centre of talks at a committee meeting attended by delegates from Jordan, Israel, Egypt and the Palestinian National Authority.

Three Israeli MPs arrived Tuesday in Cairo to attend the conference.

Kuwait has proposed talks on ways of keeping the Middle East free of nuclear weapons while Iraq wants fellow IPU members to support its sovereignty.

Libya, which has also been hit by international sanctions over its alleged involvement in the blowing up of a U.S. passenger plane over Lockerbie, Scotland, has proposed a debate on the embargo imposed on it.

Australia has proposed talks to focus on the sexual exploitation of children while Guatemala submitted a request for discussions on the deadly Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) virus.

A statement from the Geneva-based IPU said that delegates will also address issues relating to child labour and the situation of migrants, security and cooperation in the Mediterranean, the Cyprus problem and international humanitarian law.

A new IPU president will be elected on closing day to replace Srour, whose three-year non-renewable term expires.

Three candidates are vying for the post: Purno Agitok Sangma, speaker of India's lower house of parliament, Eduardo Menem, president of the Argentine Senate and Spanish MP Miguel Angel Martinez.

The IPU is also expected to admit Fiji and restore the membership of Belarus, and Arab groups are expected to press for full membership for the Palestinian National Council.

## Jewish extremist pleads not guilty to hanging pig posters

TEL AVIV (AP) — The Jewish extremist who incensed Muslims by drawing posters depicting the Prophet Mohammad as a pig pleaded not guilty Wednesday, and her lawyer charged that the Palestinians themselves copied the poster to magnify its effect.

Tatiana Susskind, 27, is charged with supporting a terrorist organisation, insulting religious feelings, endangering a public transportation route and defacing public property.

Although Susskind admits to drawing the posters, "we're saying that she did not put up the posters in Hebron" as has been widely reported, said

Defence Attorney Sean Kasper. "No one has ever proved that they were hung up."

He also said that although official psychiatric tests indicated Susskind is sane, a private psychological evaluation showed she "lacked control over her actions" on the day she drew the posters, and she was therefore not responsible.

"I think it is going to be a war between the state psychiatrists and the private psychologists," Mr. Kasper said.

Mr. Kasper said Susskind was found in the Israeli-controlled part of the city with several copies of the poster in her hand, but

insisted that "the people who multiplied these posters were from the Palestinian [National] Authority."

Susskind, an art school dropout and supporter of the outlawed anti-Arab Kach movement, was arrested in June.

Her action incited riots in Hebron and were condemned throughout the Muslim world.

She was released last month on \$14,000 bail and placed under house arrest. There have also been claims in Israel that the accusations against Susskind amount to an attempt to restrict free speech.

## Bombing kills 2, injures 5 in Algeria — press report

ALGIERS (AFP) — Two people were killed and five were injured when a bomb exploded in an abandoned house in a village just south of the Algerian capital Algiers, Al Watan daily reported Wednesday.

The bomb exploded Tuesday as the owner of the house and members of his family were going back to visit the building.

The village is close to Rais, just outside Algiers, the scene last month of the country's worst mass slaying since the five-year confrontation between security forces and Islamists began.

That massacre, which left 98 dead according to an official count and more than 200 according to area residents, was part of a wave of massacres that has swept the country this year.

The outlawed Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) launched an appeal from the office of its overseas executive in Bonn for "immediate resistance" to the government, which it accused of colluding in the massacres.

It said Algerians were being abandoned to their fate, and urged them to defend themselves.

Also Tuesday, in London, a top FIS official, Mohamed Dneidni, warned of a military coup "in the coming days," urged western nations to denounce the bloodshed and called for an international inquiry into the massacres.

"We reaffirm that the regime is committing these massacres to prepare the way for a state of emergency and for army intervention in the capital," Mr. Dneidni said.

## Former French FM urges U.S. to reexamine policy on Israel

PARIS (AFP) — Former French Foreign Minister Herve de Charette urged Washington to reexamine its Middle East policy, saying the spectre of war was rearing up again and Washington should not remain Israel's "unconditional" ally, in an interview published Thursday.

"Frankly, I fear that the spectre of war is on the horizon" in the Middle East, he was quoted as saying in the Arabic language daily Al Hayat.

Stressing that the "key to

the door of peace lies in Israel in the office of the Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu," Mr. De Charette said "that another key lies in Washington."

"As long as the Americans continue a strategy under which they are the privileged and unconditional ally of the Israeli government, whatever it may be or whatever it does, then the United States is no longer an element in peace."

Mr. Charette said he hoped the trip by U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright to

Israel should answer whether "the United States is ready to pressure Israel so it has a better perception of things."

Mr. De Charette was the main architect of a cease-fire in south Lebanon after the Israeli offensive in the spring of 1996.

Ms. Albright arrived in Israel on Wednesday at the start of a Middle East tour aimed at defusing the crisis which has gripped the U.S.-sponsored peace process for the last six months.

## Middle Eastern businessman focus of U.S. campaign probe

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Citing Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) information, a Senate panel Tuesday indicated that a Lebanese businessman may have been granted a meeting with President Bill Clinton in exchange for campaign contributions.

The allegations, arising from the panel's look into illegal campaign fund-raising, are helping shed light on the elaborate steps the White House took last year to ensure Clinton's reelection.

At the centre of the debate Tuesday was Roger Tamraz, a 57-year-old Lebanese-born businessman who poured nearly \$300,000 into Democratic Party coffers in 1995 and 1996.

Republicans say his goal was to get Mr. Clinton's support for an ambitious plan to build an oil pipeline between the Caspian Sea and Turkey.

Initially, the White House had shut out Mr. Tamraz after the National Security Council (NSC) informed Vice President Al Gore that Mr. Tamraz "has a history of making false claims" and was seeking to use his White House ties to influence foreign governments, Turkey in particular.

Mr. Tamraz, whom the Lebanese government has charged with embezzling \$200 million, nevertheless was invited to a Christmas event at the White House, had coffee with the president and attended, in the president's company, a screening of the Hollywood movie "Independence Day."

At Tuesday's hearing, Republican senators introduced written testimony by a CIA employee who reportedly was contacted by the former head of the Democratic National Committee, Don Fowler, in 1995.

Mr. Fowler allegedly asked the CIA employee to persuade the NSC to change its mind about Mr. Tamraz.

Testifying Tuesday, Mr. Fowler said he does not remember contacting the CIA employee, identified only as "Bob."

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Jackson may celebrate 40th birthday in Poland

WARSAW (AFP) — U.S. pop star Michael Jackson may celebrate his 40th birthday next year in a Polish manor, President of the World Trade Center Warsaw Jacques Toulon said Wednesday, quoted by the Super Express mass-circulation newspaper. Polish authorities are drawing up a list of small palaces and manors where the superstar can blow out his forty candles on August 29, 1998.

Bardot set for new racism hearing

PARIS (AFP) — Former film star Brigitte Bardot has been summoned to appear in court in December accused of making racist comments, the second time she has faced such charges. Informed sources said Tuesday, Bardot, a militant animal rights campaigner, appeared in court last December over comments in April 1996 criticising the Muslim practice of ritually killing sheep. The court let her off citing freedom of expression.

Sardinian tourist jailed for stealing Diana teddy bear tribute

LONDON (AFP) — A London court on Wednesday jailed for a week a Sardinian tourist who stole a teddy bear — he intended to give to his girlfriend — from among tributes to Diana, Princess of Wales. Fabio Piras took the bear left among the thousands of flowers and other tributes at Saint James's Palace, London, on Tuesday, which happened to be his 20th birthday. He told London magistrates that he took the toy and condolence card attached to it, as a present for his girlfriend.

People who abuse animals also hurt people

WASHINGTON (R) — People who abuse animals are often likely to assault or abuse other people as well, according to a survey conducted in the United States and published on Tuesday. The survey, commissioned by the Humane Society of the United States, found that nearly 30 per cent of all incidents involving cruelty to animals also involved violent crimes against people. It surveyed law enforcement agencies, local animal care agencies and media reports from across the country between September 1996 and the end of August this year.

New Delhi to scrap old vehicles to check pollution

NEW DELHI (AFP) — The New Delhi administration plans to ban people driving commercial vehicles that are more than 15 years old in the city in a bid to check stifling pollution, it was announced Wednesday. New Delhi Transport Minister Rajendra Gupta said the ban would cover thousands of buses, taxis and scooter-rickshaws, which are the chief mode of public transport in the Indian capital. "Pollution is the number one problem in Delhi," Gupta said.

Concert pays tribute to Russian pianist Sviatoslav Richter

MOSCOW (AFP) — Leading Russian musicians and hundreds of fans paid tribute to the late Russian pianist Sviatoslav Richter, who died on August 1, at a concert on Tuesday night. Mezzo-soprano Arkhipova, cellist Natalia Gurnam, violinist Yuri Bashmet and conductor Yevgeny Kolobov, all former names in the music world, laid flowers on the stage of the Conservatory before performing in his honour.



ONE OF TWO KNOWN TO EXIST: Christie's director of London wine department, Paul Bowker, presents a jeroaboam of Mouton Rothschild 1945, Wednesday, as part of a private wine cellar coming up for auction next week. The jeroaboam, which is equal to six regular bottles or five litres, is the most expensive single bottle and is expected to realise a sale price of between 30,000-40,000 pounds sterling. There are only two known jeroaboams of this vintage in the world (Reuters photo)

Hamas says Israel killed

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Volume 22 Number 6634

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Combined agency dispatches

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